

Heseltine and Hurd concede victory after Chancellor falls two votes short of overall majority

Major wins the battle for No 10

New prime minister will be youngest since 1894

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major, the 47-year-old Chancellor of the Exchequer who promised to create a truly classless society in the 1990s, is the new leader of the Conservative party. Today he will succeed Margaret Thatcher as prime minister, the youngest since Lord Rosebery in 1894.

Michael Heseltine and Douglas Hurd, his two rivals for the posts, immediately conceded victory last night after Mr Major had come within two votes of the 187 required for outright victory. They called on the party to unite behind him and the formality of a third ballot was scrapped.

Standing on the steps of 11 Downing Street, Mr Major said: "This election has enhanced the democratic process substantially. It has been a very clean election and an election based on substance, not on personalities. It has dealt constructively with the issues."

He expressed gratitude to his rivals for the way they had conducted the election and the gracious way they had conceded. "It is a very exciting thing to become leader of the Conservative party, particularly exciting to follow one of the most remarkable leaders the Conservative party has had."

"I believe that as time proceeds and Margaret

LEADERSHIP BALLOT RESULT

Major	185
Heseltine	131
Hurd	56

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joined the celebrations of the Major campaign team.

Tory MPs greeted the swift end to the leadership contest with jubilation and said that Mr Heseltine's immediate concession had done much to heal divisions. The party was gripped by a wave of euphoria, believing that the contest had united the Conservatives and transformed the prospects for the next election. Some even began talking of an early election while Mr Major's honeymoon in the opinion polls lasted. Senior party strategists, however, do not expect Mr Major to go to the country until there has been a turnaround in the economy.

The announcement of the election result was followed by a rise in the pound in New York. It went up from its London closing price of \$1.9755 to almost \$1.98 and increased to DM2.9240 from DM2.9190 against the German mark. In London the pound had closed up 1.05 cents at \$1.9745 and down 0.84 pence to DM2.9242.

MPs were speculating last night that Mr Heseltine would be offered the post of environment secretary or trade secretary in Mr Major's first cabinet. Mr Hurd is expected to be invited to continue as foreign secretary.

The highly effective Major campaign team led by the Treasury ministers Norman Lamont and Richard Ryder, and the arts minister David Mellor, had their predictions borne out by the result.

Mr Heseltine won a vote which will confirm his strength within the party and assure him of a leading position in the cabinet. Mr Hurd made a respectable showing but clearly suffered from a squeeze in the last 24 hours.

Mr Major has emphasised his eagerness to boost education and to enhance the status of teachers. He has said that he is prepared to see some increase in public expenditure as a proportion of gross domestic product in order to improve public services. He is pledged to continue resistance to a single European currency.

The new prime minister will come under immediate pressure to honour the promises of all three candidates that there would be further reviews of the poll tax.



The new leader, John Major, exuding confidence as he headed for his ballot triumph in the Commons yesterday

The plot thickens nicely in room 12

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

DOUGLAS Hurd confided to journalists after voting for himself in the leadership contest yesterday, that he thought he had a very good plot for his next novel.

His last thriller, *The Palace of Enchantments*, was subtitled "the decline and fall of a minister - political fiction as deadly as fact". Was the foreign secretary hinting yesterday that he may soon have time to add to his collection?

The real-life political drama about the decline and fall of a prime minister once again centred on room 12 in the long Commons committee corridor as the 372 MPs marched, slunk and strolled in to cast their votes for the second time in a week.

As the first contestant to arrive, Mr Hurd managed the singular feat of silencing waiting reporters by boasting that his suit came from Craggs of Swindon.

John Major cast his vote at 12.15 am saying: "I am perfectly content with the way the campaign has gone. As for the result, we will wait and see. I am a patient man." He was not a man expecting much spare time in the near future.

The Majorites got off to a galloping start. According to the exit poll conducted by the *Beast of Bolsover* (the Labour MP Dennis Skinner), Mr Major clocked up about 56 votes within the first hour compared with Michael Heseltine's 20 and Douglas Hurd's 15. Later in the day the more tortoise-like troops of Heseltine and Hurd made up ground.

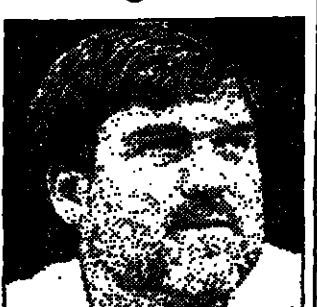
Mr Heseltine was the last of the three contestants to vote, leaving it until after lunch. "I can now confirm that at 14.13 on November 27 I have three votes - because I had two proxies," parodying his comment after the first ballot, when he confirmed he had one vote.

Mrs Thatcher left her vote until 4 pm when she walked in through the right door and out through the wrong one to avoid the assembled press corps. Lesser mortals had to run the gauntlet of reporters conducting instant straw polls. Some owned up, others kept their counsel.

Economic gloom ahead

Two gloomy warnings on recession came from the chairman of ICI, Britain's largest manufacturing concern, and Professor Sir Alan Walters, former economic adviser to Margaret Thatcher. Sir Denis Henderson said that good economic growth will not occur in Britain for the next two or three years and Sir Alan said that Britain faces a deeper recession than the rest of the world because it tied its hands on exchange rates ... Page 29

Gatting row



The England cricket team management has been criticised for accepting an offer from Mike Gatting, the banned former captain, to help with net practice in Australia ... Page 48

NHS blow

Most of the extra £3 billion secured by Kenneth Clarke, the former health secretary, to spend on the NHS next year will be wiped out by inflation and pay awards ... Page 13

Yeltsin attacked

Communists in the Russian Federation launched an attack on the president, Boris Yeltsin, over the new union treaty ... Page 14

Walesa support

Poland's prime minister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, pledged support for the presidential bid of his rival, Lech Walesa. The peace offering was intended to block Stanislaw Tyminski, the Polish-Canadian businessman ... Page 16

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Thatcher's last night at No 10

By MICHAEL HORNSWELL

IN HER final moments as prime minister, Margaret Thatcher will be driven from 10 Downing Street to Buckingham Palace this morning formally to tender her resignation to the Queen at 9.40.

John Major, her successor, will take the same route but from No 11 next door, some 45 minutes later when he will be invited to form a government.

He will then undertake the shortest of house removals to No 10 to complete the end of the 11½-year Thatcher era.

Upon installation as prime minister he will also take the title of First Lord of the Treasury with a jump in salary from £55,221 to £66,851, before a pay rise in January to £72,533.

Mrs Thatcher, who spent her final night in the building she has occupied since May 1979, will move today to her home in Dulwich, south London, and a backbencher's salary of £26,701, rising to £28,970 in January.

Tories look forward to new era of party unity

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVE MPs last night immediately united around their new leader, all of them agreeing that the prompt and generous withdrawals by Michael Heseltine and Douglas Hurd had laid the foundations for the party's recovery after its recent strife.

John Major would be an excellent prime minister, Mr Hurd declared as he withdrew from the contest. Mr Heseltine announced that he was standing down to ensure that unity was achieved at once "in order that we may go on to win the next general election ... I congratulate John Major and I thank him and Douglas Hurd for an absolutely first-class campaign fought without rancour or bitterness, which I believe lays the basis for the unity of our party."

Mr Hurd promised to support Mr Major and said he harboured no bitterness. "I think everyone agrees it has been a very good fight," he added. "My aim has always been to help restore unity in

the Conservative party. I think we can now find unity with a broadly based Cabinet working in close consultation with our MPs and our supporters in the country."

Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, said: "I'm delighted John is to be the new leader of the party and we all look forward to him leading us to victory in the next general election."

Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary and a Hurd supporter, said: "I think the outcome is accepted by everyone. I think it is quite clear that John got support from all sections of the party as did Douglas and Michael."

David Maclean, a junior agriculture minister, said: "I am delighted that the other candidates have done the perfectly correct and honourable thing and we now have a united party to go forward to win the next general elections."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said Mr

Major was Margaret Thatcher's candidate, and the self-confessed preserver of Thatcherism, adding: "The face has changed but the policies remain the same."

Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, said: "John Major is the no change prime minister."



POLITICAL SKETCH by Matthew Parris

Mum's the word for a jolly wicked uncle



Thatcher: saying her last goodbyes yesterday

EVEN in the best regulated families there are moments when honesty breaks through.

Everyone knows that the Tory family at Westminster, SW1, have been through a bad patch. Everyone knows they have just about held together, but that Mum has decided to leave. She has not been kicked out - let us be clear about that. She has come to an amicable arrangement after what were (it is true) certain tensions. But it is very much her own decision. No winners - is that clear? - and no losers. The whole family appreciates Mum's contribution. Everybody is on her side. So let's avoid silly talk about "treachery," okay?

Now, Uncle David Evans (C, Welwyn & Hatfield) knows this perfectly well. They have explained to him that bygones are bygones. He has nodded wisely as senior uncles on all sides have asked for an end to bitterness.

It's just that David was terribly fond of Mum. He feels he owes a lot to her; that people like him would never be in parliament without her help. Not having gone to a posh school or university like the others, glib phrases about wishing her well in her new life don't come easy. He knows she didn't want to go.

He blames her kitchen cabinet. He suspects they manoeuvred her into believing the game was up, so that one

of them could slide neatly into her place without a struggle. How he wishes she had put up a fight! Why, David and his pals would have stuck up for her. Who knows? They might have won. Now he has been cheated of the chance to fight at her side, and he's damned if ...

But "no," he tells himself: "no point in being bitter. She wouldn't have wished it."

So Uncle David goes into questions, yesterday, with a rather predictable little enquiry (question 13, in his name) about education vouchers, and a rather predictable inclination to recommend vouchers to the education secretary, Kenneth Clarke.

Kenneth Clarke! Aaargh! Isn't he one of the uncles rumoured to have threatened to walk out on Mum if she stayed after her first ballot debacle? That's what David has heard, anyway. His rage is boundless.

But "no," he bites his lip and counts to ten, "must behave." He sits there, order paper gripped fiercely in his hand.

Question 11 ... "repairing old school buildings in Devon." Uncle David is finding it difficult to concentrate. Question 12 ... "nursery education in Normanton" - he's breathing hard. Should he go through with this? Maybe it will be a junior minister, not Clarke, answering him?

"Mr David Evans!" announces the Speaker.

"Number thirteen, Sir," he calls. Wicked Uncle Ken rises smoothly to his feet. Ooh and he looks so self-satisfied. Standing there so bland and so genial in his lawyer's suit and lawyer's smile, stroking the dispatch box. Evans is almost too angry to listen to what Clarke says: the usual guff, rubbishish vouchers - something about "choice".

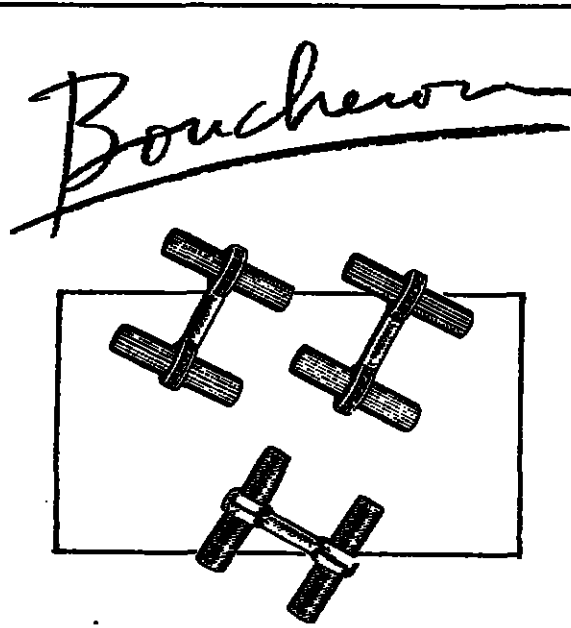
Evans's turn. He stands. Labour start laughing at him. He glances nervously at his order paper. "Reading!" they mock.

Poor Mum, dressed in black, is hovering behind the Speaker's Chair, waiting to enter. She has come to say goodbye for the last time. "Reading!"

Something snaps. Sod the lot of them! "When it comes to choice," he tells Clarke, "had you remained loyal last Wednesday, backbenchers would have freedom of choice" - he is bellowing, now - "of the leader they wanted as Prime Minister."

Uncle Ken chuckles mildly, takes it in his stride as he has taken everything in his stride: nurses, doctors, ambulance-men, Thatchers ... ho-hum, all's for the best in this best of all possible worlds ... David Evans subsides, still shaking.

If John Major - Mum's own choice, after all - encounters the odd pocket of resistance, they won't always be the predictable ones.



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The great go and come but the show carries on

By GEORGE HILL

PRIME ministers may come and go, but the Downing Street show runs and runs.

Come a budget, or a leadership ballot, and the old team will always be there, up to their antics again. No troupe of circus acrobats ever put themselves out more frantically to win a smile from an unresponsive audience as the daring young men teetering on their portable ladders at the peril of their lives, and quarrelling volubly about who had begged the patch of pavement their leathers stood on. Flash bulbs gave an air of carnival to the performance.

The clowns mugged in front of the cameras, with electric leads dangling down the back of their jackets.

The most outrageous clown of the day was one who earnestly delivered a commentary, at about the time that Tory MPs in the Commons must have been queuing up to start voting. She discussed the prospects for the Tory party now that Mr Michael Heseltine had won the leadership. Had the rest of us missed a news flash? Then she recited the same piece with John Major's name substituted. We had caught on to the joke now, and waited for her to do Douglas Hurd, but she never did. There never was a less responsive audience. Hour after hour passed, and only an occasional twitch of a net curtain upstairs in No 10 or No 11 betrayed that anyone behind those black walls was taking the least notice of our efforts.

Out of the corner of our eye, we could hardly help being distracted from our routines by the temptation to piece together what was happening on the other side of the footlights. Two dramas at once seemed to be going on behind those two forbidding Georgian facades.

Packing up and going home was clearly the subject of one. The big items, such as the golf clubs, went out at the back of the house, to the removal van. The little things, such as the best crockery (marked fragile) and a box full of framed political cartoons, were brought out of the front door in a procession of cardboard boxes. For every package that came out, four bouquets of flowers were borne in by blushing policemen.

The other drama was harder to grasp. House-hunting for a town house nearer the job, perhaps? At any rate, the party in No 11 seemed to be having a cheerful time indoors. They came out smiling, in grey suits.

David Mellor paused to tell us that his host was nobody's puppet. Another guest, one without a vote in yesterday's election, told us that the chancellor had had two pieces of shredded wheat for breakfast, and hoped to have three tomorrow. John Major himself, smiling but circumspect, refused to confirm that.

All morning the circus continued. Our troupe was in full flow when the doorman of No 10 came out at 8am to polish his letterbox.

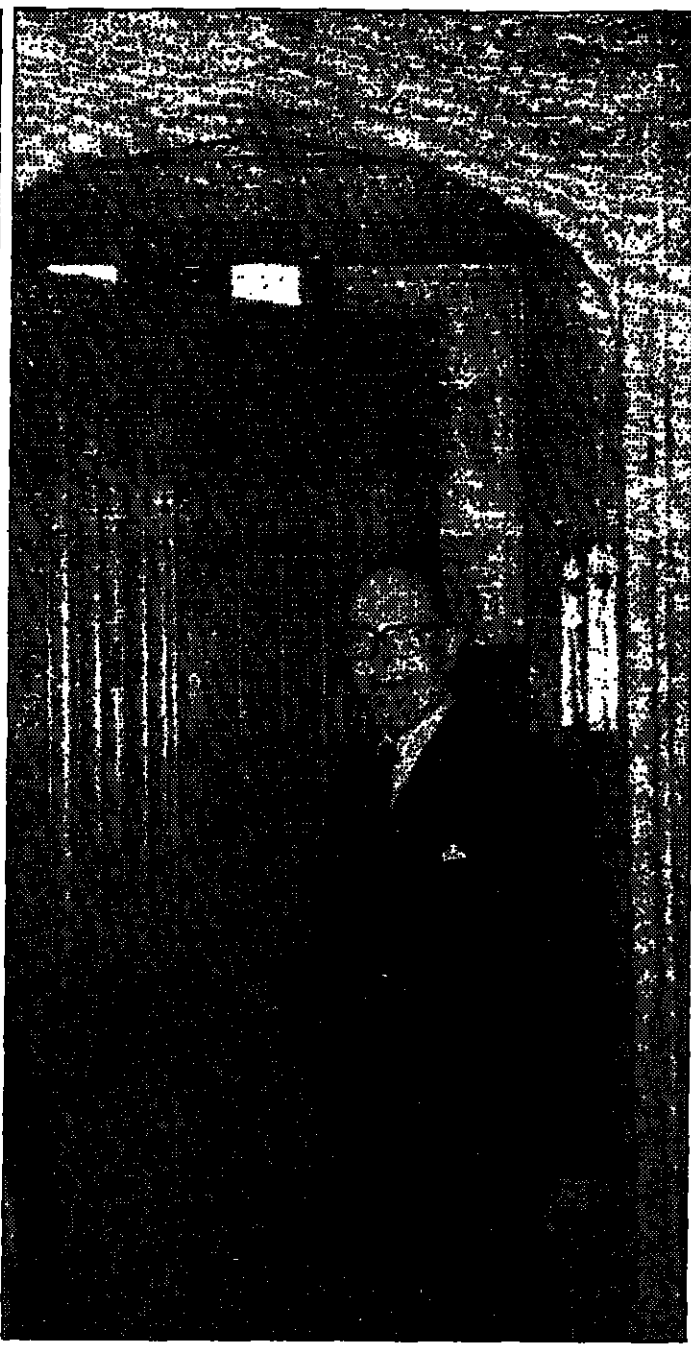
Denis Thatcher loped by, looking like a man with a great burden lifted, and had a joke with the road sweeper. At 12.50 a man in a grey suit came out, carrying a blue plastic bucket.

It was bitterly cold. The troupe were perceptibly tiring when at last the door of No 10 opened and the star of the show that had been going on inside appeared briefly on stage. In a navy suit with white trimming, smiling in a determined way, she gave us a momentary acknowledgement, and stepped into a car that carried her away to prime minister's questions.

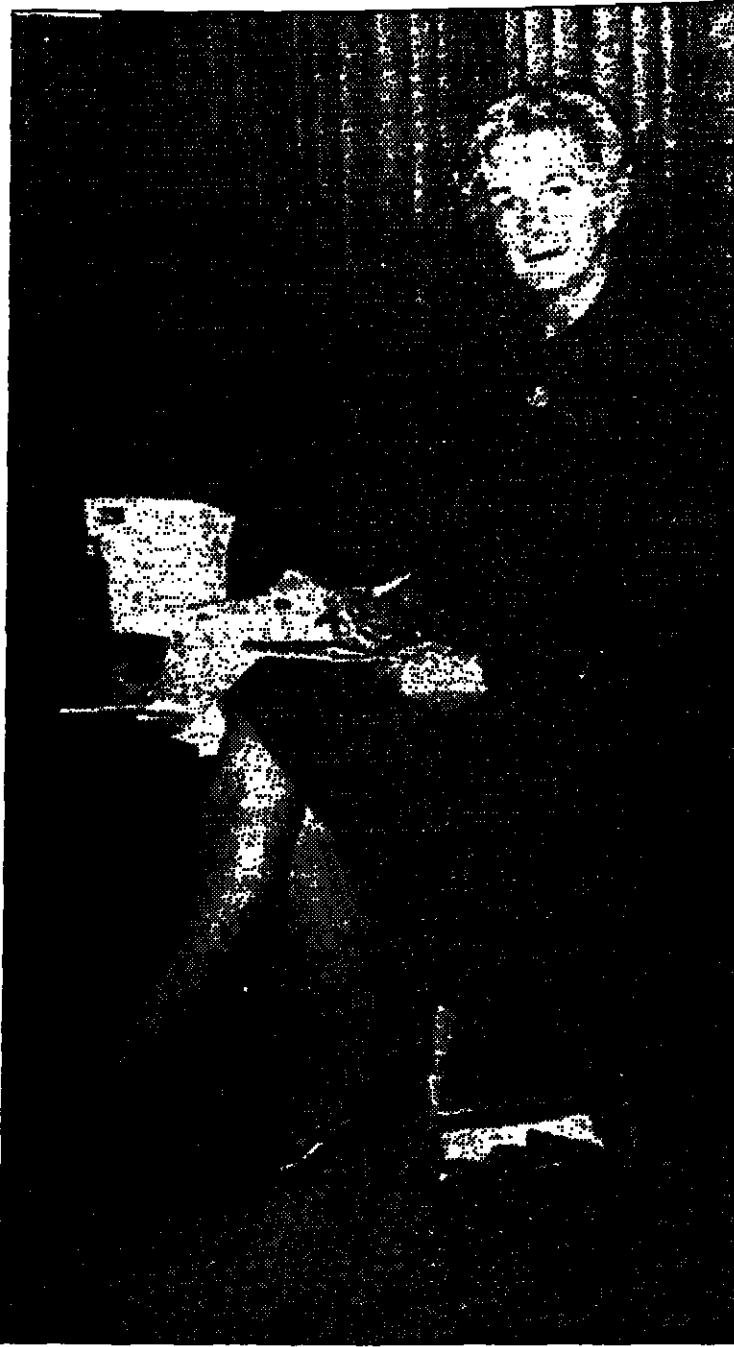
She had given us only the briefest of waves after all our efforts. But, cold and tired as we were, we felt it had all been worth it. Did she, we wondered.

Screaming Lord Sutch stood on the wrong side of the gate of Downing Street, wearing a leopard skin jacket and a top hat. One of the most durable figures in politics had come to pay tribute to another. "I regard this as a sad day," he said, putting party differences aside. "Today the men in grey suits are taking over."

Ronald Butt, Lord St John of Fawley, Martin Jacques, Craig Brown, *Diary*, page 18
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Ballot countdown: Sir John Stokes, a scrutineer in yesterday's leadership poll, at the entrance to committee room 12, where voting took place; and Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman, MP for Lancaster, waiting to cast the first vote yesterday morning



Shadowy figure steps into European limelight

By ALICE THOMSON

LONDON correspondents of European newspapers have been frantically putting together profiles of John Major since he became the most serious contender in their eyes for the British political throne. While Michael Heseltine and Douglas Hurd are familiar figures in the foreign media, Mr Major has always been a somewhat shadowy figure in Europe and his entry onto the political stage is being treated with unusual enthusiasm.

The French press has become more interested in the British election challenge since Mr Major entered the fray. He is seen as the most mysterious of the three contenders and *Le Monde* newspaper says: "There is a contradiction in his character between his smooth and grey manner and the populist and anti-establishment convictions attributed to him."

Other papers revel in his "working class" background, and *Le Figaro* concludes that he has played his cards marvellously. The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* points out that Mr Major has promised Britain a classless society by the year 2000: "This electrifies the masses, who have been driven to social mobility more reluctantly than enthusiastically by Nanny Thatcher." The paper predicts that Mr Major will win the general election.

Spanish commentators say that Mr Major would be a decisive leader in time of war. *El País* says that he has more experience in office than Mrs Thatcher had during the Falklands conflict.

In Norway, Mr Major was summed up in the daily as "a tough and unpretentious politician. A decent sort, but seeming to lack the charisma of a leader."

The European Commission has voiced no opinion on the leadership election, knowing it will have to work closely with the new prime minister. However, Mr Major, considered to have mastered the details of European economic and monetary union better than most, is thought best placed to defend Britain's interest most forcefully on the single European currency. He has therefore met with a cooler response than the two other candidates.

In South Africa, there has been little interest in the individual merits of the three candidates and Mr Major's name has barely been whispered. While black politicians are hoping for a Labour victory in the next general election, the white perspective on the leadership contest was summed up by *The Star* of Johannesburg: "Unless Mrs Thatcher's successor is a disaster — and the track record of all three does not suggest this — the one positive development is that the prospects of the Tories winning in the fourth successive general election must be enhanced."

FIRST DUTIES

Gulf and EC command the attention of No 10

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALTHOUGH the first official briefing to be given to the new tenant of 10 Downing Street is likely to be on the Gulf, the new prime minister will need also to turn his attention to two inter-governmental conferences that will chart the future of the European Community.

Next month's inter-governmental conferences in Rome will flesh out the declarations agreed by 11 of the EC leaders at last month's Rome summit.

Against the wishes of Mrs Thatcher, the 11 agreed to being the second stage of economic and monetary union in 1994. She was also alone in expressing reservations about the summit's conclusions on political union.

It is assumed at Westminster that the new prime minister will want to make an early visit to Washington to meet President Bush as well as making a trip to Saudi Arabia to see British forces and their preparations for conflict in the Gulf.

The two conferences have the potential for triggering deep divisions within the Conservative party. The Foreign Office hopes, however, that with Luxembourg

and Holland holding the presidency of the EC for the next 12 months, there will be more sympathy for Britain's views and not as much pressure for swift movement towards final agreements.

After the election of victory it is likely that the early hours of Friday morning will deliver a cold douche of reality to the new Conservative leader. The results of two by-elections in Paisley, Scotland, are expected to confirm the parlous state of Conservative party fortunes north of the Border.

On the domestic scene the new prime minister will also need to keep a close eye on the economic indicators as potential guidelines to the timing of the general election.

The Treasury forecasts that inflation will fall to 5% per cent by the fourth quarter of next year and that the current account deficit will fall to £11 billion next year. The forecasts assume unemployment at 1.75 million.

The state of the economy is likely to determine the date of the election although it is conceivable that the new leader might take advantage of any honeymoon period he enjoys and make a dash

to the polls in the spring. Also domestically, local authorities will set next year's poll tax levels in February and March.

The poll tax is likely to provoke a wave of unpopularity in the weeks before the local government elections on May 2 when there will be contests for 12,253 seats in 36 metropolitan councils and 333 district councils in England and Wales. The Tories will be defending sweeping gains that they made just weeks before Mrs Thatcher won the 1987 general election.

As a test of opinion in England and Wales, the elections will provide politicians and party strategists with some pointers about whether the government could risk going to the country in June or October. If there is not a general election in June, the prime minister will face the dilemma of either going to the country in October or in 1992.

Whichever way the economic indicators point, the prime minister will also take into account the political considerations of a decision to delay until 1992 before holding a general election. A postponement until 1992 risks boxing a prime minister into a corner on possible dates and creating the perception that the government is clinging to power until the last moment.

Also Douglas-Hume almost won in October 1964 by staying on to the end of the five-year term but James Callaghan might have had a better prospect of winning if he had gone in October 1978 rather than being forced into a general election in the summer of 1979.

In July the group of seven economic summit will be held in London and later that summer the new leader will make his debut as prime minister at the Commonwealth conference in Zimbabwe.

The new leader's first key appearance before the party faithful could be in Scarborough next February at the annual conference of the Young Conservatives. A month later he is expected to attend the annual meeting of the Conservative Central Council in Southampton.

SNP poll tax tactics may deny it victory

By KERRY GILL

THE Scottish National party's poll tax non-payment campaign could rob it of any chance of victory in either of the two Paisley by-elections tomorrow.

The two candidates and their supporters have had a hostile reaction on many doorsteps from people who have paid the tax and face an increase next year because of the high non-payment level in Strathclyde. The backlash comes in the wake of mounting concern about poll tax shortfalls throughout Scotland.

Labour and the Conservatives have found themselves agreeing that the nationalists' campaign will mean higher bills for most Scots after next April. Some regions have already announced cutbacks in services.

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, emphasised yesterday that he expected the campaign to end. As soon as the new prime minister tabled legislation that produced a fairer system based on the ability

to pay, he said, the party's non-payers would clear their debts in full. Whether this change in heart will secure victories in the two seats is doubtful. Mr Salmond said he was confident the nationalists were on the brink of a by-election triumph.

Donald Dewar, Labour's spokesman on Scottish affairs, said the SNP was now desperate for any escape route to allow them to break out of the non-payment campaign.

Labour said it was confident of victory, but had not become complacent. Irene Adams, Labour's Paisley North candidate, said: "We will fight for every vote we can get. We take nothing for granted and keep fighting until the last possible minute."

Michael Hirst, president of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association, said his party believed that opposition to the SNP's non-payment campaign would be reflected in the polls.

Clarke backs pooled sovereignty

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN must be prepared to pool its sovereignty to help to create a proper economic climate in Europe, a leading cabinet supporter of Douglas Hurd said last night.

Kenneth Clarke, education secretary, said it was amazing how hostile sections of British public opinion was to such ideas. Speaking in London at the annual dinner of the Institute of Directors — one of the business pressure groups which has been a particularly strong supporter of Margaret Thatcher as prime minister — Mr Clarke said that Britain must create institutions in Europe based on free market economics and free international trade, with a strong competition policy.

They should favour sound fiscal and monetary conditions, with a strong anti-inflationary pressure. He said: "We should be prepared to pool our sovereignty to help create such institutions and such a climate in Europe post-1992."

He said, however, that domestically, Britain had to make low inflation and a stable currency

higher priorities than public spending and public subsidy, and he said that the gains of the last decade should not be thrown away.

Referring to the "enterprise years" of Mrs Thatcher's period, he said the Conservatives did not intend them to be a passing phase.

The new prime minister had a great responsibility for carrying forward the success and self-confidence that Britain had earned in the 1980s. "He has to revive the morale of his party which has depressed itself by unnecessary division."

"Even more important, he has to revive the confidence of the nation in the free market economics and the radical social reforms that produced such an atmosphere in 1987 that the return of a Conservative government till the end of the century seemed almost assured."

The reforms that had swept through the private sector now had to be transferred to areas of the public sector, including his former areas of the health service and his new responsibilities in education.



Clarke: call to maintain the enterprise years

Thatcher's last clash at question time

By ROGER WOOD AND JOHN WINDER

MARGARET Thatcher made her final appearance at prime minister's question time yesterday when she told MPs: "I don't believe in making a career out of positively last appearances." She assured them that her contribution to politics would continue from the back benches.

Her decision was made yesterday morning even though the result of last night's leadership vote would have given her the opportunity to take questions again tomorrow, still as prime minister. This task will fall to John MacGregor, the leader of the Commons.

Cheering Conservatives MPs waved their order papers as Mrs Thatcher entered the chamber and took every opportunity during a noisy 15-minute session to praise her record as prime minister. Their attitude was summed up by Donald Thompson, MP for Calder Valley, who said: "She's

been a good 'un." Dame Jill Knight, MP for Birmingham, Edgbaston, demonstrated her loyalty against a barrage of Labour interruptions when she spoke of the profound regret of millions of British people and thousands of millions outside Britain that Mrs Thatcher was not continuing in office.

She had rendered unrivalled service in turning back the tide of socialism, in ending the brutal tyranny of militants in the trade unions and by re-establishing Britain as a great power. "I ask you to reflect with pride that a thousand years from now when everyone else in this House is dead and dust, you alone will have a hallowed place," Mrs Thatcher said. "I am very grateful to you for your generous tribute."

Her final clash across the dispatch box with Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, came when he asked which of her policies

should be scrapped by her successor. That gave Mrs Thatcher the opportunity to say she was happy that her successor would carry on the excellent policies of the present government. They had led to the decline of socialism, brought prosperity to the country, and had raised Britain's standing in the world. They had brought about a truly capital-owning democracy.

Mr Kinnock responded by asking why, if she thought nothing should be changed, the candidates seeking to replace her were desperately wriggling, trying to get out of the poll tax trap. "I rather thought they were keeping the community charge," Mrs Thatcher said. "Whatever review they have, the result will be infinitely better than going back to the rates."

Mr Kinnock: "May I, since this could conceivably be the last time she answers, say to her that her

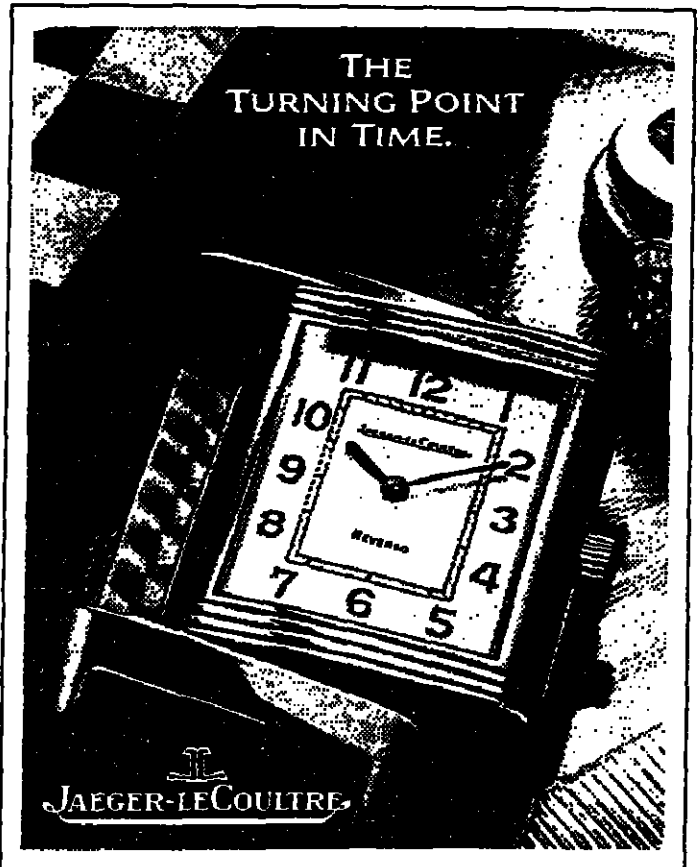
honest approach on poll tax is commendable because she is demonstrating that there are two — and only two — honest choices: to keep it intact and the other is to abolish it, as we would."

Mrs Thatcher: "That is not correct. As with any new tax one needs reviews and continually amends it. I would have thought he would know that."

Tributes came from outside her own party, from James Moynihan, leader of the Ulster Unionists, and from Rosie Barnes, a member of the former SDP, but not a word of praise or blame from the Liberal Democrats.

David Winnick, Labour, asked if Mrs Thatcher did not find all the Conservative praise hypocritical and nauseating when 152 Tory MPs had stabbed her in the back last week. "I do not find it nauseating. I find it very refreshing," was the reply.

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Signs of switches in cabinet jobs as Major talks tactics

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR last night began conferring with his closest colleagues about the shape of his first cabinet with all the signs that there would be few changes of personnel. However, there are likely to be several switches of jobs within the existing cabinet.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, beaten by Mr Major in the leadership election, is certain to stay in place. John MacGregor, the Commons leader and former Treasury chief secretary, was

emerging last night as a strong candidate to take Mr Major's job as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The other contenders for that post are Norman Lamont, chief secretary to the Treasury and one of Mr Major's campaign organisers, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, and Chris Patten, the environment secretary.

In the interests of party unity Mr Major is likely to promote some of the ministers who were associated with the Hurd cam-

paign, and to bring into the cabinet Michael Heseltine, the other beaten contender. In that event he will have few, if any, new cabinet slots available.

Possible roles being discussed for Mr Heseltine include party chairman (possibly risky because of his current unpopularity with the grassroots), home secretary, environment secretary (where he would be in charge of the review of the poll tax promised by all three contestants), industry secretary or even a return to his old post of defence secretary. One strong possibility being canvassed last night was for Mr Heseltine to become the environment secretary, with Mr Patten becoming Commons leader.

Mr Major may not want to move Tom King from the defence post with events in the Gulf moving so speedily. In other circumstances, however, he would be seen as the ideal candidate as Commons leader. David Waddington, the home secretary, is another candidate for that post but seems likely to stay where he is. Chris Patten is being spoken of as a possible Commons leader to replace Mr MacGregor.

With Mr Heseltine taking the one cabinet place made available by Mrs Thatcher's departure, there will be space only if Mr Major decides to dispense with the services of some of the more senior cabinet members, such as Mr Waddington, Cecil Parkinson or John Wakeham. If there is a place available, Mr Major may bring into the cabinet for the first time David Mellor, the arts minister and a leading figure in his successful campaign.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary and another member of the campaign team, might become chief secretary with Mr Lamont tipped for promotion, possibly to the industry department. Michael Portillo is being tipped as a possible newcomer for chief secretary. There are also likely to be promotions for Francis Maude and Richard Ryder, possibly to chief whip or even to local government minister, serving as Mr Heseltine's number two.

Ronald Butt, Lord St John of Fawley, Martin Jacques, Craig Brown, Daily, page 18
Leading article, page 19
Media pages, 22-23



Beaten challengers: Michael Heseltine with his wife Anne as he announced last night that he would stand down from the leadership challenge; and, below, Douglas Hurd meeting the former Czech prime minister, Aleksandr Dubcek, at the Foreign Office earlier in the day



'Thatcher's man' is denounced by Labour

By PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Labour leadership last night denounced John Major as "Thatcher's man" in a foretaste of the campaign they will relentlessly wage against him right up to the next general election.

His emergence over the past few days as the candidate favoured by the outgoing prime minister was regarded as a godsend by Labour strategists, who concede that the departure of Mrs Thatcher is an electoral boost for the Conservatives. One said: "Our fox was shot last week. But at least we have got the candidate most closely identified with her."

Labour leaders meet today to reassess tactics, realising that they now have to win the next general election with a positive presentation of their own policies rather than relying on the Tories to lose it. Mr Major will be portrayed as the prisoner of the right, the candidate endorsed by Mrs Thatcher and groomed by her for high office.

A Labour strategist said yesterday: "Our message will be: this man is Thatcher in a grey suit. There will be no big changes under him."

As the former chancellor Mr Major will face charges that he is the architect of Britain's economic ills, high inflation, high interest rates and high mortgages. Labour will also attempt to undermine his credentials to make far-reaching policy changes.

Mr Major's pledges to press on with the health and education reforms will be treated with scorn by Labour. It will allege that as chief secretary to the Treasury in charge of public expenditure he was more interested in squeezing health and education programmes in the pursuit of tax cuts.

Leadership change renews thoughts of an early election

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect of an early election is back on the agenda with John Major's victory.

With the polls showing that a Conservative party led by the former chancellor enjoys a nine-point lead over Labour, Mr Major might be tempted to seek a new mandate as early as next spring.

A cabinet minister who has played a prominent role in the campaign to elect Margaret Thatcher's successor said yesterday: "I think a new leader opens things up. John cannot be blamed for what he inherits, even though he was at the Treasury. Voters will want to give him time to show what he can do."

Under Mrs Thatcher, the received wisdom within the party has been that an election would have to be delayed until the spring of 1992. That would leave time for the electorate to reap the benefits of falling inflation and mortgage rates and to become confident that their new-found prosperity was not another cynically engineered pre-election boom.

Only last month, at the party conference in Bournemouth, Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, was sticking to 1992 as his preferred escape route.

Since then the political map of Britain has been rolled up, and all the options are open to Mr Major. Ministers who only days ago were talking about playing it long, under the leadership of Mrs Thatcher, are now openly speculating about a dash to the polls.

Assuming that he keeps his job, Mr Baker, who has been quietly tuning up the party machine since the late summer, is likely to advise Mr Major that he could have his troops in shape by the late spring. However, he would probably prefer to assess the outcome of the local government elections in May before agreeing that it was time to take the plunge.

There are dark clouds on the

electoral horizon, however. First, with the Western powers squaring up for a war in the Gulf some time after a United Nations deadline of January 1 or 15, can the new prime minister be confident that he will be in a position to seek a new mandate only a couple of months later?

The armed forces expect a quick, clean kill, but nobody can be sure that hostilities would be concluded rapidly and successfully. Nor can anyone predict the course of events in the tinderbox of the Middle East even if President Saddam Hussein has been driven out of Kuwait and, possibly, toppled from his Baghdad throne. An election immediately before, during or after a shooting war is out of the question.

Then there is the vexed matter of the community charge.

Mr Major has said that he is increasingly convinced that the poll tax cannot be left untouched. An early election would mean that he would have to go to the country on a promise to make changes. Given his track record as minister who kept quiet while the unseaworthy flagship of Mrs Thatcher's third term trundled down the cabinet slipway, would such a pledge hold water with voters during the rigours of a three-week election campaign?

Finally, the new prime minister must negotiate a way round the twin hurdles of economic and political union about to spring into his path next month in Rome with the opening of the inter-governmental conferences. Mr Major will have to work quickly and in close collaboration with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, if he is to have a workable compromise at hand in time for an election in the spring or summer.

Mr Major's strength is that after his two spells at the Treasury nobody is better placed than he to massage the economy in the right direction over the next few months.

Pulling power that won over a sceptical public

By DAVID LIPSEY

HIS rise in the polls has been even swifter than his rise to the pinnacle of British politics. As recently as September 1989, Mr Major, though already foreign secretary, did not figure in a list of six contenders in a Mori poll of voters' preferences for leader of the Tory party. Even after his 1990 Budget, only 3 per cent of the public preferred him, less than one-twelfth of the proportion choosing Michael Heseltine. Yet he ended the leadership campaign overtaking Mr Heseltine as the leader most likely to sway voters.

A Gallup survey in the *The*

Daily Telegraph yesterday gave the Conservatives a 9-point lead over Labour under Mr Major. With Mr Heseltine, their lead would have fallen to 8 points, while under Mr Hurd, the Tories would trail Labour by 3½ points. In *The Independent*, an NOP survey showed that 30 per cent of electors were more likely to vote Conservative under Mr Major, but only 26 per cent were more likely to vote Conservative under Heseltine.

The public view of Mr Major closely reflects their short experience of him. He was well ahead of the other two candidates on his

The voters and Mr Major (All figures in percentages)	
Listens to other people	64
Understands the people	57
Strong	50
Trust to limit inflation	43
Good internationally	42
Devoted	20
Extreme	16
Uncaring	16

ability to handle the economy, a Mori poll in *The Sunday Times* showed, with 43 per cent putting him top. He trailed, however, on his understanding of world problems, on his ability to represent

Britain in Europe. He has a particular credibility gap to bridge on the Gulf, where only 10 per cent of those polled thought that he would do best of the three.

Moreover, despite being the youngest candidate, he does not greatly appeal to the young, where Mr Heseltine performed much better. Among those aged 18-24, the Tories would be 19 points behind under Mr Major, compared with only one point behind under Mr Heseltine. Mr Major is strongest with older voters, and his ability to extend his appeal to the younger generation will be an early test in his premiership.

Anxious hours for candidates as colleagues cast their votes

Hearty breakfast on a day to remember

By BILL FROST

THE next prime minister breakfasted heartily yesterday. He ate two Shredded Wheat (not even he could manage three), some wholemeal toast and enjoyed a pot of tea. Then, for once unaccompanied by his entourage of Major-ettes, the Chancellor left No 11 shortly after 9.30 am for the City of London, to preside at the official opening of the European headquarters of Nomura, the Japanese securities giant.

John Major arrived outside the skyscraper to find photographers, camera crews and reporters crowding the pavement. Whisked past the baying throng by his minders, Mr Major took the express lift to the 9th floor where Nomura executives awaited his arrival.

The occasion was being beamed live by satellite to 145 company offices across Japan. The chancellor's speech was simultaneously translated and video tapes were to be given to employees as a memento of the ceremony.

Just before 10.05 am, the toastmaster called for silence and told the assembled company that Mr Major was in the building. A hush fell over the banking executives and Yoshihisa Tabuchi, the president of Nomura, fingered the knot of his silk tie.

Mr Major arrived looking just a touch preoccupied. His thoughts, almost certainly, were elsewhere. He sat, hands clasped tightly on his lap, and smiled politely while Mr Tabuchi read out a speech in Japanese.

Thunderous applause from Nomura executives followed the president's address, in which he thanked Mr Major for finding the time out to come on such a busy day. Then Mr Major went to the rostrum. "This is an extremely important day," he said with a

mischievous smile. "One that I will recall for some time to come." The executives who understood English laughed enthusiastically. He added: "It is always nice to have something enlivening like this to do in the midst of an otherwise dull period." More laughter. One executive told his colleague in a whisper that Mr Major was "to be made prime minister later today."

The jokes over, Mr Major moved to the serious part of his text, in which there was a tribute to the achievements of the Thatcher years. The speeches over and the plaque unveiled, champagne was passed round. Mr Major took his flute gingerly, toasted Nomura's new European HQ with two abstemious sips, posed for the cameras, refused to be drawn on the leadership contest, then left the building at a gallop, bound for Westminster and the waverers.

Bad day for protesters

By LYN JENKINS

THE scruffy band of protesters on behalf of the homeless who chose to target Michael Heseltine yesterday could not have picked a worse day.

With his ambitious assault on the party leadership in full swing, Mr Heseltine's passage from the door of his office to his car required over a dozen policemen to keep excited and inquisitive on-lookers at bay. Middle-aged women, office girls and the odd puzzled Japanese tourist had gathered in the hope of catching a glimpse of the man. At best, they caught sight of his blond head above the attendant policemen and television cameras. The hous-

ing protesters were pushed into the background.

Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, chose a lull in the proceedings to give the press corps the benefit of his own wisdom. He was pleased that John Major appeared to have the edge. "He will probably be best for us. After a while people will switch off."

Before Mr Heseltine left for the Commons to cast his vote in room 12 his wife Anne made a short visit. Wearing a crisp charcoal grey suit she left with her chauffeur to return home and walk the dogs William, Dominic and Oliver before preparing for the hectic events of the evening.

DOUGLAS Hurd spent yesterday yo-yoing between the Commons to pursue his prime ministerial aspirations and the Foreign Office, where official business could not be ignored.

At 9.30 am Mr Hurd stepped through the doorway of 1 Carlton Gardens without so much as a hint of a nostalgic last look behind him. Wearing a fawn mackintosh and carrying a black briefcase, he grinned ruefully beside his blue Daimler. When asked about his chances of becoming prime minister he said: "If I were you, I would expect the unexpected."

The foreign secretary was whisked off to his Whitehall office, where he was to meet Sir John Swan, the Premier of Bermuda, at ten o'clock. As his car drew up beside Horse Guards, the ebullient and confident-looking John Major team bounced down the steps of 11 Downing Street. As John Gummer, Peter Lilley and

To and fro between work and aspiration

By WILLIAM CASH

David Mellor chatted in the street, a stern-faced Tristan Garel-Jones, the Foreign Office minister who was "whipping" in for Hurd, sloped past trying to bury himself inside an olive-green cape. He refused to comment on the Hurd campaign as he made for a back entrance of the Foreign Office.

As Mr Hurd attended to business all morning, from his office window he would have been able to see the removal men loading the Thatchers' personal effects from the Downing Street back door into an enormous white lorry destined for Dulwich.

After a meeting with Alexander Dubcek, chairman of the Czechoslovak Assembly, who is in Britain to attend the North Atlantic Assembly, Mr Hurd moved on to the Commons where at midday he received a visit from Sir Ian Gilmour and Sir Dennis Walters to discuss Arab affairs.

After making his way to committee room 12 to vote for himself, it was back to the Foreign Office for a working lunch with his campaign team. Mr Hurd spent the afternoon in his office, marshalling his team in a rear-guard effort to consolidate his position.

At 4.30 pm he made what he might secretly have hoped was his last official engagement, the presentation of an honorary OBE to Dr Ludger Eising in recognition of his work in improving Anglo-German relations.

Anne Widdecombe, Tory MP for Maidstone, said late yesterday afternoon that the mood in the Commons had been swinging all day and that the Hurd camp was cautiously optimistic. After a last-minute check-up on events at the Commons, Mr Hurd waited with his campaign team at the Foreign Office to hear the result.

AS YOU TRAVEL, IT SOON BECOMES CLEAR THAT SPAIN OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAMPLE SOME VERY GOOD WINES IN PERFECT SETTINGS. THE BARS AND CAFES NOT ONLY PROVIDE REFUGE FROM THE SUN, BUT A WIDE SELECTION OF COOL, FRAGRANT IN THE SEARCH WHITE WINES AND ROSADOS. AT LUNCH, IN THE COBBLED SQUARES AND COURTYARD GARDENS, THE GREATEST REWARDS. THE LIGHTER REDS ARE GOOD COMPANY FOR LOCAL DISHES, AND ALWAYS MAKE EASY DRINKING. DINNER, USUALLY CALLS FOR ONE OF SPAIN'S FULL-BODIED OAK-AGED RED WINES. WHEREVER YOU GO, YOU'LL FIND A WINE FROM SPAIN FOR EVERY OCCASION.



THE SPAIN JUST WAITING TO BE TASTED. WINES FROM SPAIN, 60 CHILTERN STREET, LONDON W1M 1PR

Major: the unknown prime minister

Not since Bonar Law, the dark horse, won the duel for Downing Street will the occupant of No 10 be so little known, Jamie Dettmer writes. John Major's name has spread only in the past few weeks after he was tipped for the top

LORD Blake's definitive biography of Andrew Bonar Law is entitled *The Unknown Prime Minister*. Any future historian will thus be pre-empted from using a similar title for a work on John Major, although the cap would fit as snugly.

Bonar Law's emergence as leader of the Conservatives in 1911 came about because the two main contenders, Walter Long and Austen Chamberlain, withdrew from the struggle for the sake of party unity. Bonar Law, the dark horse, was not widely known in the country and was never expected to gain the leadership.

Even a few months ago most people in Britain would probably have been hard pushed to name Mr Major as the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Michael Heseltine, a far more colourful if uneven character, was far better known, partly because of his blustering out of cabinet during the Westland affair. Margaret Thatcher might not have been expected to win the party leadership in 1975 but she was well-known, if only in the guise of the "milk snatcher".

Mr Major's fame has spread only in the past few weeks. Astute political commentators began cautiously to tip Mr Major for the top in his last days as chief secretary to the Treasury. He performed well as Nigel Lawson's right-hand man, managing to keep the spending departments under tight rein without angering their ministers.

His 94 days' tenure at the foreign office was not happy. He seemed out of depth and was badly wrong-footed at a Commonwealth conference at Kuala Lumpur when he was contradicted by Downing Street. His restoration to the Treasury put him back on even ground. He proved highly effective as chancellor and steadied the City which was on the brink of going into convulsions over Mr Lawson's resignation. His autumn statement was praised by fellow Conservative MPs, in spite of the underlying bleakness of its economic message.

Mr Major's upbringing promised much less. His early life was hard even if it was enlivened by the presence of his unusual father, Abraham Thomas Ball, alias Tom

Major of the vandyke double-act Drum and Major. His father successfully toured music halls and circuses on both sides of the Atlantic.

Mr Major has said that his father was a great influence on him. "I still think he was the finest raconteur I have ever heard, and he had such a wealth of experience and a range of interests." Tom Major was 67 years old when his son was born but into his seventies he retained a fine humour.

Late in life, Tom Major left the stage and set up as a sculptor and manufacturer of garden gnomes. A failed investment forced the Majors to swap their home in leafy Worcester Park for a two-room flat in rundown Brixton, with a gas ring on the landing and a lavatory three floors below.

"Obviously, I was aware that we'd moved, and I could see the difference - but there was no difference in the way the family behaved or the way they treated me," Mr Major says. "It was a good environment to be brought up in."

He attended the local Rutlish Grammar School but performed badly. He says that he somehow turned against his teachers after feeling that he was at the bottom of the heap. All he missed was the sport, particularly his beloved cricket, when he left at 16.

He worked as a labourer initially, went on the dole, got a job at the Electricity Board, was turned down when he applied to become a bus conductor before joining Standard Chartered Bank. There he soon came under the wing of Anthony Barber, the former Tory Chancellor, the first of a series of Conservative mentors who helped him up the greasy pole of political preference.

Mr Major joined the Conservative party soon after leaving school. He found the attitudes of the Lambeth Labour hierarchy patronising and offensive and at first experienced patronising attitudes in the local Tory party as well. The young Major did not allow the snobbish attitudes of some local Tories to dissuade him from a political career. The party was beginning to change, to shift its ground from an aristocratic,



The heir apparent winning an enthusiastic reception from Margaret Thatcher for his message to the Conservative party's conference in Bournemouth last month

paternal vision to a meritocratic one and Mr Major was well-placed to be swept along on the new wave.

His political efforts were interrupted for a short time while he went to Nigeria for the bank. It was there that he was involved in a car accident which nearly resulted in him losing his leg. His injury has stopped him playing cricket, his great passion outside politics.

His first serious political post was on Lambeth borough council. His colleagues voted him chairman of the housing committee. He has joked since that his one big

regret in life was to have failed when housing chairman to secure the demolition of the house he and his parents had been reduced to live in after his father's business failed.

After two attempts to win St Pancras North for the Tories, he was eventually elected at Huntingdon in 1979. His rise through the Tory ranks in the Commons has been meteoric with eight different government jobs in as many years.

In January 1981, he became parliamentary private secretary to the Home Office ministers, Timothy Raison and Patrick Mayhew.

In January 1983, he was appointed a whip, becoming a senior whip a year later. He spent two years as a junior minister at the then health and social security department. He was promoted within the same department a few months later. In 1987, he became Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

His rapid rise has not stirred rivals to envy. Mr Major is a friendly and personable man. Critics have questioned whether he has a defined political philosophy. Is he dry or wet? He has not been that forthcoming in reply. He normally attempts to side-step

labels. Friends say that he is hard on economics but soft on social issues.

His own answer does not provide much clarification: "I am a free-marketier; I could never accept the politics of soft options, because soft options are bogus options - but beyond that, I believe in treating issues on their merits."

The key to his philosophy lies with a wish to widen individual freedom. In a speech to the Conservative party's Radical Society last year he said that one of the questions he asked himself when

deciding on a proposal was would it enlarge freedom and extend opportunity. Other questions included: would it encourage people to take more responsibility for their own lives and would it improve the lot of the worst-off.

Those questions are now going to press in on him in a much sharper way than even when he was Chancellor. The final question about the man is whether he is up to the job. He has been untested by comparison with Douglas Hurd. He did look vulnerable when foreign secretary. Only proverbial time will tell.

RISE THROUGH THE RANKS

March 28, 1943: born and grew up in Merton.
1953: moves to Brixton.
1959: leaves Rutlish grammar school. Works as clerk and labourer.
1960: joins Conservative party.
1965: joins Standard Chartered bank. Founds Lambeth Borough Young Conservatives.
1968: becomes Lambeth councillor.
1970: marries Norma. Becomes chairman of Brixton Conservative Association.



1974: Losing in London

1974: stands for St Pancras North twice. Loses twice.
1979: stands for Huntingdon. Wins.
1981: PPS to Home Office ministers.
1983: assistant whip.
1984: senior whip.
1988: junior minister at department of health.
1988: minister of state for social security and the disabled.
1987: chief secretary to the Treasury.
1988: foreign secretary (July).
Chancellor of the exchequer (October).
1990: party leader and prime minister.

Norma Major and politics

No-man's land calls to the homemaker

By JAMIE DETTMER

WHEN Norma Christina Elizabeth Johnson married a young up-and-coming banker in a church opposite Lambeth town hall, she could have been forgiven for harbouring thoughts far removed from 10 Downing Street.

If she had had time to reflect on the political future of John Major, her husband, she might have toyed with the idea that he could become a Conservative MP. After all, he was in Tory politics, albeit as a councillor.

As recently as four years ago, Mrs Major dismissed out of hand the suggestion that her husband would become Britain's 52nd prime minister. "That kind of thing doesn't happen to people like us," she said.

The unassuming Mrs Major has always seemed surprised at her husband's rise. When he telephoned to tell her that he had been made foreign secretary, she said: "You're winding me up." She also felt sick at the mere thought of his elevation. Mrs Major is proud of her husband and wants him to succeed. Her pleasure at the rise and rise of John Major is a mixed one, however.

She retreated in shock for ten days after the announcement of his promotion to the post of foreign secretary. She also lost a stone in weight during his 94-day tenure at the Foreign Office.

Last March, Mrs Major admitted that she had been reduced to tears by the pressures placed on the family by her husband's political career. "I've shed my tears - and not always quietly into the pillow," she told an interviewer.

In the run-up to the budget, when Mr Major was in what the Treasury calls purdah, Mrs Major said: "I feel him slipping further away. Even when I have the man

beside me, I feel his mind isn't really there." She has described the past week and her husband's challenge for 10 Downing Street as "a cross between waiting for Christmas and a particularly unpleasant visit to the dentist".

For Mrs Major, family life is all-important. She is happiest at their modest four-bedroom home in Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire. She revels in providing for her two children, Elizabeth, aged 18, and James, aged 15. "I am fulfilled by domesticity," she has said.

Newspaper biographers of Mrs Major have tried to explain her attachment to home and family through the history of her early childhood life. Born in Shropshire in 1942, her father was killed in action in Belgium during the last days of the second world war. She was sent to boarding school in London at the age of four.

She later trained as a home economics teacher, turned to dressmaking, was a nanny for a short time, and started canvassing for the Tories after making dresses for Diana Geddes, a Conservative candidate. She met her future husband in the 1969 GLC elections. It was love at first sight for them.

After a whirlwind romance, they were engaged within three weeks and married within six months. Even on their wedding day, politics intruded. Wearing morning suits, Mr Major and a friend spent half an hour before the service touring a nearby council estate in Brixton.

Throughout her husband's career, Mrs Major has given the appearance of steering herself to deal with the demands placed on her. "At the start being a candidate's wife was daunting, but I did it," she has said, and has done so with great capability. Mrs

Major has been seen by some as Mrs Suburban Average.

That is a mistake. In her sensible cardigans and long, gathered skirts, she might seem a typical Tory wife.

Not many of that breed, however, could write a well-received biography of Joan Sutherland, the diva. Opera is her great passion outside the home. She turned down a commission to write a biography of Jesse Norman, the singer, because of her husband's move to the Foreign Office.

Her interests also focus on the area in which she lives. She views Mr Major's Huntingdon constituency as an "extended family", and insisted that the launch of her book about Joan Sutherland took place at Huntingdon town hall rather than at the London Coliseum or the Royal Opera House.

She delivers meals-on-wheels for the Huntingdon WRVS and works hard for Mencap, the charity for those born with mental disabilities. "Beyond the constituency is no-man's land," she has said.

At each stage of Mr Major's career, his wife has tried to keep the infrastructure of the family intact. While her husband was chancellor, she slept only one night a week at 11 Downing Street. "He came over at the House a great deal and can cook his favourite beans on toast in the kitchen at Downing Street," she said. For her, it was important that Mr Major had a solid home life to return to at weekends.

Mrs Major is reported as saying recently: "I am sure it is very naive of me but, having been through the last 18 months, which has been a difficult struggle, I would like to think we can carry on as we are." It probably is. No-man's land beckons.



Home delivery: Norma Major on her meals on wheels round

What's in a name?

Grandest history of the three

By PHILIP HOWARD, LITERARY EDITOR

THE next prime minister has by far the grandest and oldest name of the three candidates. This sits quite oddly on the candidate who claims to be classless and have the common touch, and who is (in spite of propaganda to the contrary) well to the left of his party. Major is the only leading political name that came over with the Normans.

Major can be a cognate of the Jewish eastern Ashkenazic Mayer. But as an English name it comes from the Norman personal name Maelg (or Maelgier), which is composed of the Germanic elements *mal* council, plus *geri* or *geri* a spear. The first Majors to come to the top in England were, onomastically, and probably bloodily also, warlords, like the rest of the Norman magnates.

Mrs Major keeps up the blue-blooded Norman connection by having Norma as her Christian name. In fact, *qua* Christian name, Norma was invented by Felice Romani in his libretto for Bellini's opera of that name.

The new prime minister's first name was made important and famous by early Christianity. John is the English form of the Latin Johannes, from the New Testament Greek Ioannes. And that is of the Old Testament Hebrew name Johanan, which, being translated, means "God is gracious". The translators of the Authorised Version decided on John as the English way to spell it.

John is the name of several characters in the Old Testament, including one of King David's "mighty men".

The name was borne by John the Baptist (the precursor of Christ himself, who baptised sinners in the River Jordan), by one of Christ's first disciples (John the Apostle, a fisherman, brother of James), and by the author of the fourth gospel (John the Evangelist, identified in Christian tradition with the apostle, but more probably a Greek-speaking Jewish Christian living more than half a century later).

The names of the runners-up are not as good as Major, but perfectly *papabili*. Hurd is one of a whole cluster of English surnames (variously spelled Heardman, Herd, Hurd, and so on, depending on the part of the country that the holder comes from), derived from the Old English *heard*, a herd or flock. Hurd means cowherd or shepherd. The spelling with that "u" suggests that the family came originally from the Midlands. This is categorised as an occupational name, like many others. Hurd is an ancient name for a leader. In Homer, Agamemnon and other supreme kings are addressed as "hurd(s) of the people".

Douglas also has to do with cattle or sheep, but with rustling rather than looking after them. It is the surname of the notorious gang of Border reivers, eventually ennobled as the earls of Douglas and Angus. Douglas probably comes from the Gaelic *dubh* black, plus *glas* stream, from the place in the Scottish Borders where the Douglases had their stronghold.

Heseltine is a habitation rather than an occupational name. It and its cognates are derived from the Old English *hæsel* a hazel tree or grove, and either *denu* a valley, or *lun* an enclosure or settlement. Heseltine is a topographical name. It means "chap who lives in the hazel valley", and is widely dispersed; though I guess that the first Heseltine spelled that way came from Gloucestershire.

Michael is the English and German form of a common biblical name, which means in Hebrew "Who is like God?" In the Middle Ages the archangel Michael was regarded as captain of the heavenly host in flak jacket. Remember *Revelation* 12.7: "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven." Michael is the symbol of the Church Militant, and patron of soldiers.

Finding words to fit the man

Unfortunately we only recently downgraded Major to a robot who is controlled by Maggie. We decided to remove his brain and I suppose we will have to find some way of putting it back in.

Bill Dare, of *Spitting Image*

He has risen so fast on sheer ability rather than image that I think he is in danger of underestimating the importance of image in this telly age.

Selina Scott, broadcaster

I would much prefer him to become prime minister at a later date once he has gained further experience.

Lord Whiteley

I support John Major because he is the youngest and best looking.

Helen Gregory, wife of Conal Gregory MP

Part of John Major's success is that he looks like everyone's tank manager.

Tom McNally, former Labour MP and now head of public affairs at Hill and Knowlton

He has a caring face. Not all women go for flamboyance.

Gillian Shepherd, minister at the social security department

A decisive leader in case of war.

El Pais, Madrid newspaper

John Major looks like someone on the 7.15 to Waterloo.

Lord Hanson, chairman of Hanson Trust

He has the most courteous way of saying no.

Company chairman at CBI conference

He is a classless person. Not that I'd trust him.

Dennis Skinner, Labour MP

Mr Major is the most mysterious of the three. He is supported by the nationalist and anti-European right of the party but perhaps he has mistaken his place.

Le Monde, Paris daily

We have a very good economic policy. I have sat in cabinet for six years and listened to all the economic debate and know that

the policy John Major is pursuing is a good one.

Douglas Hurd

He has the charisma to attract a new generation of voters.

Pembroke Conservative party

We are backing John Major as we feel he has the right style.

John Fitzsimmons, Conservative leader, Liverpool council

We like each other. Ministers running against each other cannot intelligently start tearing up policy.

Douglas Hurd

If John Major really believes that a classless society is achievable he is indeed unique in the history of politics. Cloud-cuckoo-land is not the place from which an aspiring prime minister should announce his intentions.

David J. Ellis, *Times* letter

He may have won the 1992 election for the Tories.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, German daily



Domestic chores: doing the dishes at home last year



Early years: aged eight in 1951; as a school cricketer in 1958; and a prospective candidate in 1973



Electoral victory: celebrating as MP for Huntingdon in 1979

Quick snack: the Chancellor eating an ice-cream in Whitehall

Ballot puts good sport into No 10

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person in a dynamic pose, possibly a dancer or athlete. The person is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved top and dark pants. They are captured in a moment of movement, with one leg bent and arms extended. The background is dark and textured, suggesting an outdoor setting at night or a dimly lit indoor space. The overall aesthetic is grainy and high-contrast, emphasizing the form and motion of the subject.

Best foot forward: John Major hitting out during cricket practice at The Oval earlier this year

Miss Hoey hopes that with Mr Major as prime minister, sport will get a far higher profile in Parliament: "We do not even spend ten minutes every six weeks discussing it. Sport is not seen as a big cultural asset. Parliament should recognise that sport needs political assistance. It needs political push."



John Major as drawn by Trog (*The Observer*), Gaskill (*Today*), Gary (*Sunday Times*) and Steve Bell (*The Guardian*)



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Shooting of robber reopens debate on arming the police

The police shooting of an armed robber yesterday comes amid renewed debate on whether all officers should carry guns. Stewart Tendler reports on how police firearms policy is evolving

AT LEAST half a dozen criminals have been killed by armed police in Britain during operations such as the one in which a robber was shot dead yesterday at Reigate, Surrey. Newspapers and television pictures regularly feature heavily armed, flak-jacketed officers protecting courts, watching over state occasions, or patrolling airport concourses.

Given such images, questions over whether the British police should be regularly armed may seem academic. Yet the recent news that the Police Federation, representing 123,000 junior officers, may call for all officers to be armed is likely to send a shudder of anxiety through the Home Office and senior ranks.

In spite of the publicity surrounding the police use of guns, very few officers are armed or qualified to use weapons. Guns have always been available and even in late Victorian England officers in the outer London suburbs carried guns on night duty. Commanders and politicians, however,

have maintained the rule that officers should not be armed unless carrying out duties where weapons are likely to be needed.

Five years ago Scotland Yard had 4,500 officers qualified to use guns. Today the figure is 2,500 out of a force of 28,000 and is destined to fall further. A large county force such as Kent, with 2,730 officers, has more than 190 marksmen.

A few years ago the number of marksmen might well have been much larger. A series of disasters in London and the Midlands, including the shootings of Stephen Waldorf, Cherry Groce and five-year-old John Shorthouse led to a re-appraisal of police firearms policy. Police forces moved away from relying on a corps of officers with basic training, who were called up from other duties when necessary, in favour of specialist armed units constantly at the ready. Forces also moved from basic handguns and rifles towards more sophisticated weapons, including pump-action shotguns.

Police policy was refined



Revolver practice: officers learning to use handguns at a training centre. Forces also use more sophisticated firearms, such as pump-action shotguns

even further after the Hungerford shootings highlighted the problem of mobilising trained officers quickly. Fourteen forces across the country have now brought in armed response vehicles that are on patrol 24 hours a day. The weapons are kept in sealed lockers and can be used only with the agreement of senior officers. Seven other forces are

considering the system, which will be introduced in London next year.

The changes might ease public concern about possible police misuse of weapons. At the same time there is growing anxiety within police ranks about the increasing use of guns by criminals. The federation points out that nine of the 25 officers killed over the past

ten years were murdered by gunmen, and members argue that they should not be sacrificed to maintain the traditional image of the unarmed British bobby.

Supporters of the need to arm the police argue that many other countries, including almost all of Europe, allow officers to carry guns. They say that the kind of street gun battles seen in the

United States would never happen in Britain because weapons are not as easily obtained here.

Chief constables acknowledge evidence of an increasing use of guns by criminals, but they advise that attitudes should not be swayed by isolated, emotive incidents. Home Office statistics show that the use of guns remains rare and featured in less than

0.3 per cent of all recorded serious crime last year. However, the number of offences involving firearms rose last year by 20 per cent from 1988 to a total of 4,500 cases.

Whether the federation will change its policy is to be seen. A poll earlier this year showed that 86 per cent of junior officers and 83 per cent of commanders opposed general arming.

Dossier on crime squad for court

By CRAIG SETON

INVESTIGATORS in charge of the West Midlands serious crimes squad have handed over to the Court of Appeal a special report examining whether there was a pattern of malpractice among detectives in the unit.

The court asked for the report from the Police Complaints Authority and West Yorkshire police three weeks ago when it adjourned the case of a man who claims he was framed.

The release of the report to the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, and counsel in the case, is believed to be unprecedented. The authority is supervising the investigation by the Yorkshire force and normally flooding, remain confidential pending completion of the enquiries.

Details of the wide-ranging West Yorkshire enquiry into the squad were requested by Lord Lane in the Court of Appeal three weeks ago during the appeal against conviction of John Edwards, aged 26, from Manchester, who is serving a 14-year jail sentence for armed robbery. He claims that confessions to the serious crime squad were fabricated.

Edwards's case was adjourned until Friday for the complaints authority to gather possible information that may or may not suggest that alleged misconduct by detectives in his case had occurred as a pattern in other cases under investigation.

The authority has now provided the court with the information it sought. It is understood to be in the form of a statistical analysis covering other cases involving the serious crime squad.

When Edwards's case resumes on Friday, the Lord Chief Justice will ask counsel to argue whether the authority's information should be admissible.

Man faces two charges of murder

Police yesterday charged an unemployed man aged 24 with the murders of two plastic surgeons. The bodies of Kenneth Paton, aged 51, and Michael Massar, aged 42, were found at Finnerfields hospital, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, on Monday morning.

The man, who is single and lives in Wakefield, faces two separate murder charges and will appear before the town's magistrates today.

Bomb accusation

Sheffield crown court was told that Terence Thornton, aged 59, arranged for a parcel bomb to be delivered to Eileen Cauton, his former mistress, because it was cheaper than meeting her financial demands. The case continues.

\$250,000 award

Paula Norris, aged 18, who suffered severe brain damage and multiple fractures after she was hit by a car on the A13 at Barking, Essex, in September 1983, won £250,000 damages in the High Court. They will be paid by the driver, Victor Allen of Slough, Berkshire, who denied liability.

Theft case

Kerry Dixon, the Chelsea football player, appeared before magistrates at Luton, Bedfordshire, charged with the theft of £10,000 on July 6, 1989. John Dolan, of Hercoma Drive, Bushey, Hertfordshire, faced the same charge. The case was adjourned until January 11.

Toys stolen

Thieves stole a collection of 300 Dinky toys worth £24,000 from a sports car left in a car park at Uckfield, East Sussex. The toys were due to be auctioned at Tunbridge Wells.

Draw after 41 moves in world chess

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

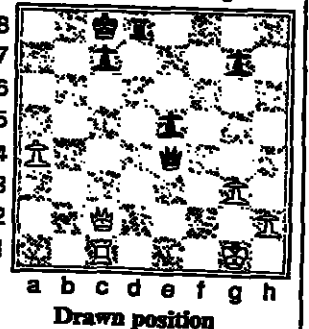
THE fourteenth game of the world chess championship in Lyon has been agreed a draw after 41 moves of a fiercely-fluctuating struggle.

Anatoly Karpov, the challenger, had the draw well in hand at the adjournment but could not achieve anything more than this, given the open nature of the position and the highly reduced material. The game was agreed drawn without resumption. The scores are seven points each.

In the chess olympiad in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, England beat Czechoslovakia 2½-½ in round nine. Nigel Short drew with Lubomir Ftacnik, Jon Speelman drew with Jan Smejkal, John Nunn beat Igor Stohl and Michael Adams drew with Karel Mokry. The Soviet Union beat China 3-1 to retain the lead, half a point ahead of England.

World championship:
Scotch Game
Karpov-Karpov

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	e5	22 Rxe1	Ne2
2 Nf3	Nc6	23 Rxe2	Qxe2
3 d4	cxd4	24 Nxe2	Qd5
4 Nxd4	Nf6	25 Nxe2	Qd5
5 Nxe2	h5	26 Nxe2	Qd5
6 Nf3	g6	27 Nxe2	Qd5
7 Qe2	Nf6	28 Nxe2	Qd5
8 d4	g6	29 Nxe2	Qd5
9 Nf3	g6	30 Nxe2	Qd5
10 g3	h5	31 Rf1	Rd8
11 Bg2	h5	32 Cf1	Re8
12 Bg2	h5	33 Cf1	Re8
13 Bg2	h5	34 Cf1	Re8
14 Cf1	h5	35 Cf1	Re8
15 Cf1	h5	36 Cf1	Re8
16 Cf1	h5	37 Cf1	Re8
17 Cf1	h5	38 Cf1	Re8
18 Cf1	h5	39 Cf1	Re8
19 Cf1	h5	40 Cf1	Re8
20 Cf1	h5	41 Cf1	Re8
21 Cf1	h5	42 Cf1	Re8
22 Cf1	h5	43 Cf1	Re8



Drawn position

Air link opens

Phnom Penh - An Air Liberté airliner with 171 people on board landed at Phnom Penh after the first of what the French company hopes will be regular flights between Paris and the former French colony. (Reuters)

Toys stolen

Thieves stole a collection of 300 Dinky toys worth £24,000 from a sports car left in a car park at Uckfield, East Sussex. The toys were due to be auctioned at Tunbridge Wells.

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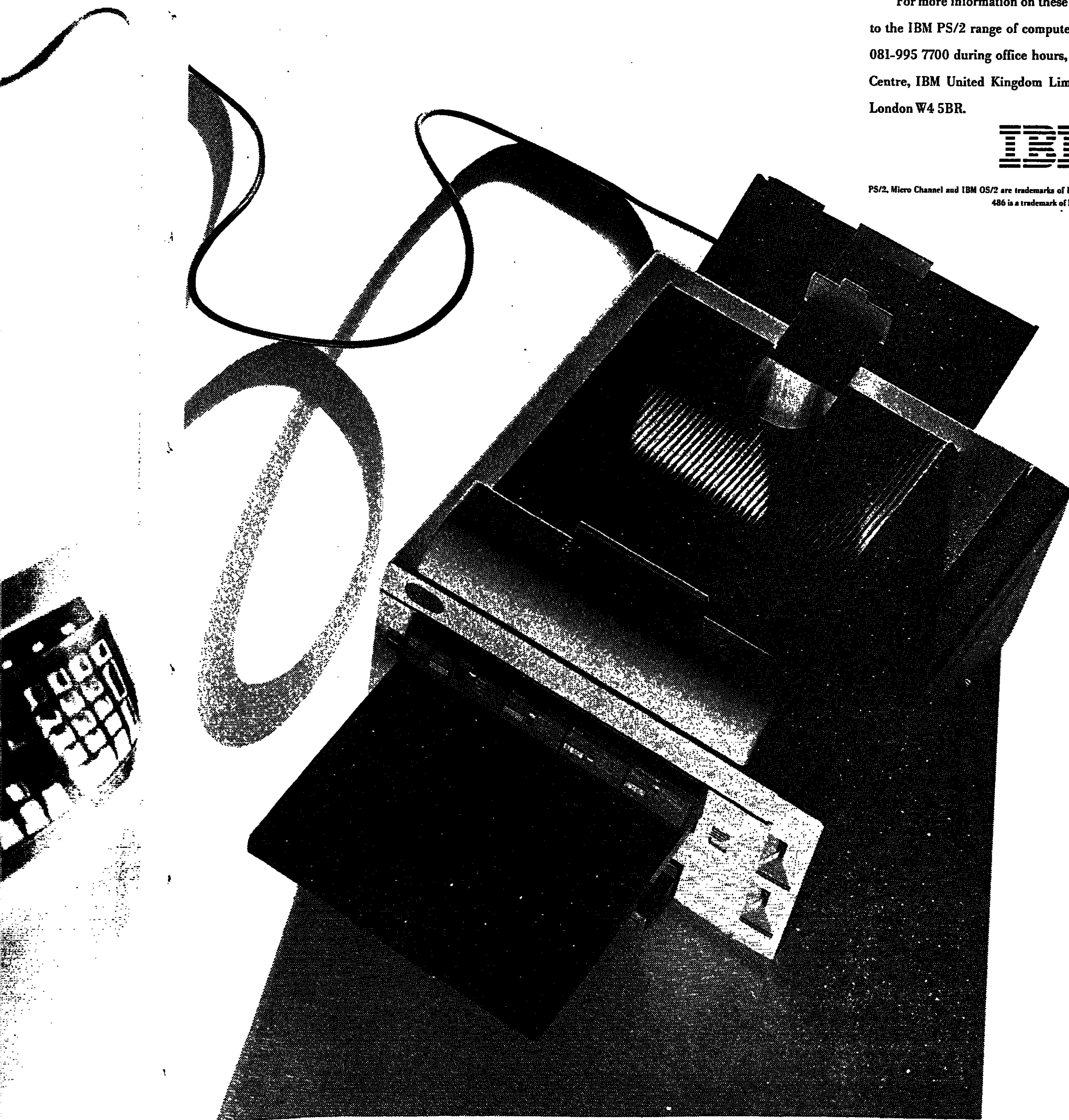
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Viewers 'would pay up to £200 a year' for BBC services

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A HUGE majority of television viewers would subscribe voluntarily to the BBC if its licence fee were abolished, with most households willing to pay at least £200 a year, according to a study by the London Business School.

The BBC could double its income by using a deregulated pay-television system, but it would cost the viewer much more if the same breadth and quality of programmes were to be maintained. Subscription costs would be 50 per cent higher than the present £71 licence fee.

The findings, which clearly show that government plans to peg the licence fee at one or two percentage points below the retail price index, are misguided, follow a two-year study of 4,000 households by Professor Andrew Ehrenberg and Pam Mills.

"We found no reaction against the licence fee, which is being talked down artificially. The BBC is being unnecessarily underfunded, given that 80 per cent of the population would not mind paying as much as £200 a year," Professor Ehrenberg said. Although 98 per cent of the respondents would voluntarily subscribe to both BBC1 and BBC2 if they were offered at the same price as the licence fee (£4 a month for BBC1 and £2 a month for BBC2), the cost of a subscription fee collection system would eat into programme budgets unless the £71 annual fee were increased.

The BBC, which said it was gratified that viewers place such a high value on its services, added that the cost of equipping everyone with decoders for a subscription service would reach £1.5 billion. That would have to be paid by the viewers.

"Even if the majority of people were to pay double the licence fee via subscription, this would not pay for BBC1, BBC2, BBC Network and regional services and BBC radio plus the cost of the decoder," a BBC spokesman said. "With a subscription service, broadcasting becomes narrowcasting and universality of access disappears."

The business school study shows that there would be a 20

per cent fall in the number of viewers, although it would probably be temporary, and in the number of subscribers to at least one of the BBC's two channels if prices rose. Eighty per cent of respondents to the survey would pay anything up to £200 a year.

The study, involving 41 different surveys of viewers in 4,000 households each given the choice of subscribing to one of 27 price packages, found that 87 per cent of those asked would still subscribe to BBC1 and 75 per cent to BBC2 if both independent television and Channel 4 were also available on subscription.

The study, done from April 1988 to April 1990, did not take into account, however, competition from satellite and cable television. "The exploratory interviews we conducted showed that people were not yet concerned about cable or satellite. No matter how successful cable and satellite is, the majority of people will still want a wide range of viewing," Professor Ehrenberg said.

Media, pages 22 and 23

Going bust slowly as a chill grasps the land

Farmers face rising costs and poor returns. Michael Hornsby on one family's precarious battle for a living

PAUL Tamblin surveys the land he farms near Saltash, west of Plymouth, and pronounces in his soft burr: "If I am very careful I may be able to go bust slowly." It is hardly a bullish verdict on 30 years of devoted husbandry of these rugged Cornish hills shaped by generations of farmers.

There have been Tamblins tilling the soil in the region for more than three centuries, but now Paul, aged 53, and his son Lister, who has just turned 30, are pondering whether to sell up and get out before economic circumstances force them to.

"Frankly, I don't enjoy farming like I used to. It is becoming an increasing struggle and if costs go on rising while returns remain static, I don't see how we can survive much longer," Paul says. "We have been sliding down a long slope and now we are on the edge of the precipice. The government just does not seem to care any more."

Like many farmers throughout Britain, the Tamblins are having trouble adjusting to the changes over the past decade. After years of being offered financial incentives to expand



Survival scene: Paul Tamblin (right) and his son Lister on land they and their family have worked for 300 years

production, they are shivering in the chill wind of a sterner creed: produce food at a price that is closer to what the market will pay or go out of business.

Paul and his son are majority shareholders in Cornish Farms. They have under their care 750 acres of agricultural land and a further 50 acres of woodland and marsh, divided

into three units spread over three parishes. The land rises from sea level to 350ft with distant views of the Tamar.

They own only 150 acres, farming the remaining 600 as tenants of Lord St Germans. There are 55 acres of potatoes and 380 acres of wheat, barley and oats. The rest of the land, particularly in the steeper parts, is used mainly as pas-

ture for 480 breeding ewes and between 120 and 150 beef cattle. Most of the feed for the livestock is home-grown.

The Tamblins were never in the Range Rover and swimming-pool league. In the 1970s, however, they lived comfortably. There was enough money to send Lister and his sister, Vanda, to private schools, and they kept a small motor boat moored on the Tiddy, a tributary of the Tamar.

In the 1989-90 season, total revenue from the farm came to roughly £200,000, against expenditure of £180,000. Out of the net income of £20,000, Paul and Lister between them drew less than £10,000 as their salaries. Most of the rest of the profit had to go towards paying off a loss of £24,000 which was incurred the previous season, mainly because of a disastrous potato crop and repairing storm-damaged farm buildings.

Purchases of fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, fuel, animal feed and other inputs accounted for £114,012. The wages of the four full-time farm-hands and extra casual labour hired for the potato harvest amounted to £35,500. Rent on the 600 tenanted acres took £24,288 and interest on bank loans a further £5,000. Depreciation of machinery was estimated at £1,200.

The arithmetic of Mr Tamblin's decline is simply stated: the hardcore costs of running the business — rent, labour, machinery — have more than doubled while the price he gets for his produce is barely higher, and in some cases lower, than it was 10 years ago, reflecting the pressure in the European Community to curb over-production

by reducing price support. "After allowing for the co-responsibility levy [exact by the EC when cereal production exceeds a specified level], we are getting £104 a tonne for our wheat, exactly the same as 10 years ago. Potatoes at £60 a tonne are slightly below what we were getting then," Mr Tamblin says. "Lambs at £31 a head are barely up on 1980, while the £411 a head we are getting for cattle compares with £463 a head then."

In 1987 the family gave up the tenancy of 100 acres of pasture. When, a couple of years ago, a farmhand was tragically killed in an accident, they did not replace him. The average age of their six tractors is nine years, and their two combine harvesters are 16 years and 20 years old. Replacing them today would cost £55,000 apiece.

Lister says he would have a hard time making ends meet without the income brought in by his wife, Lisa, a school-teacher. "I am loath to leave the land, but Lisa would like me to get out. I have talked to some local employers, including an insurance company, about other work."

Paul would have difficulty in finding another job. He and his wife Elizabeth at least have a house of their own in the village of Polbathick near by should they decide to give up farming. Lister would lose the tied cottage he now occupies. As keen conservationists, the Tamblins have built ponds, planted hundreds of trees and maintained the 15 miles of Cornish hedge-banks on the farm. There is no money to invest in such work now. "They say we must be more market-oriented," Paul says. "But who is going to look after this land if we leave?"

Early start of work kills farmer's grant

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE government has refused to pay a promised grant to a farmer who spent £20,000 protecting a local stream, because he started work a day early.

Robert Maxwell, of Chelwood, near Bath, said yesterday that he had had to mortgage his house after the agriculture ministry refused to pay half the bill, as agreed under the terms of the grant. "You think you are doing good for the community and then you are fined for doing just that," he said.

The ministry awarded the grant under the Farm and Conservation Scheme to allow Mr Maxwell to install and partly conceal a slurry store to protect a stream from polluted water. As the store would have been an eyesore Mr Maxwell wanted to re-

move 6ft of land to help to obscure the 15ft structure.

Mr Maxwell gained ministry approval on June 26, 1989, but he had started removing earth the day before. After submitting the £20,000 bill this March he was told his grant would not be paid as he had made a commitment to the project before the ministry had approved it.

Despite approaches to Mr Maxwell's MP and Chris Patten, the environment secretary, the ministry refused to change its mind.

Mr Maxwell's solicitor, Tim Smithers, said as planning permission was not granted until August 1989, two months after the initial earth-removal work, it was impossible for his client to have made a commitment to the project.

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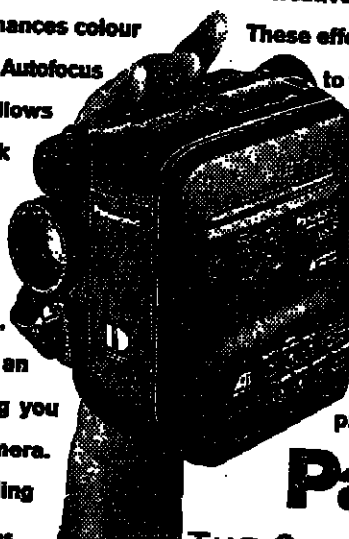
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Inflation £3b

MOST of the rain squatted by a storm (the former health) spent on the health next year would be a million and a half, government says yesterday.

The Health Service Management Association said that it paid a 9 per cent next year would be no more than a million and a half, government says yesterday. The Health Service Management Association said that it paid a 9 per cent next year would be no more than a million and a half, government says yesterday.

Judge Lord C dinosa

By FRANK GIBSON

THE Lord Chancellor delivered a public "acrobatic" to James Pickles, circuit judge, over a case which he likened to a dinosaur.

In letter marking the of several months' pondence with Judge Pickles, Lord Mackay of Clackmannan said that his remarks, during an impromptu conference in a public meeting, were made in a moment of anger.

However, in the letter, the Lord Chancellor's department said that Lord Mackay said that he would not be taking further action because Pickles had accepted the remark and had not made a complaint.

This month the second of several months' pondence with Judge Pickles, Lord Mackay of Clackmannan said that his remarks, during an impromptu conference in a public meeting, were made in a moment of anger.

A rebuke is the only sanction available to the Lord Chancellor short of dismissal under the Courts Act 1925, for misbehaviour in office. Judge Pickles, 54, was dismissed by Lord Haleham in 1988 Lord Mackay, 61, remarks he made when he failed to call a former police man convicted of attempting to murder a woman.

An outcry had followed comments at the press conference in January after Lord Haleham had criticised him for taking a baby, because she had a shop where she worked. Lord Haleham said that the Court of Appeal had found a woman.

An outcry had followed comments at the press conference in January after Lord Haleham had criticised him for taking a baby, because she had a shop where she worked. Lord Haleham said that the Court of Appeal had found a woman.

'Fall of the vicar in adultery hearing is tragedy for all'

By PAUL WILKINSON

PROCEEDINGS against a country vicar accused of adultery with his curate's wife and a married parishioner were a tragedy for all concerned, prosecuting counsel in a Church of England consistory court said yesterday.

Nicholas Atkinson, summing up his case on the sixth day of the hearing in Chichester, said that the Rev Tom Tyler had been described as a man of strong moral character and utter integrity. "That is why these proceedings are so tragic. We take no joy, as does anyone who is concerned with the church, in that the accused has fallen below the standards expected of him," he said.

Mr Tyler, aged 51, vicar of Henfield, West Sussex, for the past 12 years, has denied a charge of conduct unbecoming in a clerk in holy orders in that he committed adultery with Susan Whitton, aged 54, his curate's wife, and with Barbara Edwards, aged 34, a parishioner. He was accused of five specimens acts of adultery.

Mr Atkinson told the hearing that the vicar's liaison with Mrs Whitton had lasted ten years, and began because she was able to help him with his parish duties in a way that his wife Tricia could not, as she was busy caring for their young family.

"Her offer of assistance was gratefully accepted. The accused clearly wanted that association to go further and he pursued her sexually and, to her shame, Mrs Whitton did not resist," Mr Atkinson said that the vicar used his position of trust to see the

women at their homes without people becoming suspicious. "Mr Edwards said it was that bit of white around his neck which made it all right. It is the betrayal of all that which makes this so serious."

Intercourse happened regularly at the farm run by Mrs Whitton's husband close to Henfield, where Mr Tyler regularly went on Thursdays to prepare his sermons and deal with parish paperwork. He said that he enjoyed the peace of the setting.

It also happened at her aunt's empty home and her mother's house, the hearing was told, and they had sexual intercourse outdoors on a number of occasions.

Mr Tyler had denied all her claims, Mr Atkinson said, alleging it was a plot hatched after they fell out over a painting in the church and the sale of a field. But there was supporting evidence from a former choir girl. Both women had also been able to give intimate details of the vicar's body.

Mrs Whitton had claimed that he left notes at his home addressed to "Dear Heart". Mr Tyler said that it was a phrase he used regularly only with his wife but, in her evidence on his behalf, denied that.

Mr Atkinson asked why Mrs Whitton should bring the complaint before the bishop, knowing what unpleasantness and upset it would cause her family. He said: "How, with your children now 18, do you disclose what you have been doing over a number of years? How do you retain their respect? Do you

do it out of malice because there has been an argument?"

He said Mrs Whitton had decided in July 1988 to end the affair, but made no attempt to bring it into the open. It was not until June the following year that she spoke to the archdeacon, but no action was taken after Mr Tyler had denied his claims.

She was spurred into further action after hearing rumours of a liaison between the vicar and Mrs Edwards, the hearing was told. She had seen them coming out of a walk-in toy cupboard at a mother and toddler group.

Mrs Whitton met Mrs Edwards and they agreed to make personal statements to the bishop of Horsham. Although they were written separately, they showed remarkable consistency, Mr Atkinson said.

Judith Hughes, counsel for Mr Tyler, accused Mrs Whitton of launching "a campaign of denigration" against the vicar. What had begun as a good working relationship with him, had declined to a point in 1985 at which there was open hostility between them over disputes relating to the church. She had subsequently refused to accept communion from him.

Miss Hughes said: "Vicars, like doctors, are vulnerable to accusations of adultery when visiting females at home. Women sometimes fabricate stories for all sorts of reasons; sometimes for no reason at all." Her accusation to the archdeacon in June 1989 had been rejected, Miss Hughes said, and she was embarrassed



Susan Whitton (left) and the Rev Tom Tyler outside the court yesterday

and humiliated. As a result, when Mr Edwards accused his wife of having an affair with the vicar "it was the golden opportunity Mrs Whitton required. It was her trump card."

Mr Tyler said that he had had neither the opportunity nor the inclination to commit adultery with their woman. Allegations of sexual intercourse in his car were ridiculous and the homes where intercourse was alleged to have taken place were far too busy for it to have been

possible. Miss Hughes said that the evidence of the two women was so inconsistent as to be "totally unreliable".

Details of the numbers of times adultery took place varied significantly from affidavits to evidence given in court, she said. The date on which Mrs Whitton alleged sex had first taken place was impossible, as either she or Mr Tyler had been holidaying in that period.

Although there was no suggestion that the two women's original statements had

been written together, it was suggested that they had exchanged information. Mr Tyler's relationship with them was simply "that of a caring and conscientious member of the clergy", the hearing was told.

After directions on the law from the chancellor of the Chichester diocese, Judge Quentin Edwards, QC, who is presiding over the hearing, the panel of assessors, two clergy and two diocesan laity will retire today to consider their verdict.

IRA cache stumbled upon, jury is told

A JURY at the Central Criminal Court was told by a birdwatcher yesterday how he stumbled on an IRA arms cache buried on the Fembrookshire coast.

Terence Gover said he was suspicious after treading on spongy ground at disused mine workings at Newgate beach, Dyfed, in the autumn of last year.

He had the impression the ground had been dug within the previous two or three weeks, he said at the trial of Liam O'Duibhir, aged 22, and Damien McComb, two Irishmen accused of plotting bomb explosions. Mr Gover also found a rucksack in the same area and took police there.

Earlier Mr John Nutting, for the prosecution, said the case was found to contain explosives and 10 guns. Mr O'Duibhir, aged 22, and Mr McComb, aged 22, were arrested after a 42-day stake-out of the site — and of another spot near by where a smaller discovery was made — by detectives.

The court was told that the two were arrested at gunpoint after unearthing items from the hiding places. They deny conspiring with persons unknown to cause explosions in the United Kingdom before December 22 last year.

Detective Sergeant Ian McLeod, of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said he substituted items found in the case before it was re-buried. The trial was adjourned until today.

Donna Maguire, an alleged IRA terrorist wanted by police in the Netherlands in connection with the murder of two tourists, is expected to be extradited from Belgium by Christmas, a Dutch court was told yesterday.

Drug case soldiers helped police

Soldiers from the Royal Signals joined an undercover police operation after being arrested for possessing cannabis, a court martial at Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, was told yesterday. They helped police to arrest 71 people on charges including drug dealing and armed robbery.

Mark Stephenson, aged 23, of Wallasey, Merseyside, and Jason Portage, aged 19, of Wakefield, were given eight months' detention. Stephen Turner, aged 21, of Runcorn, and Peter McEwan, aged 18, of Edinburgh, were given six months. The four were also dismissed. Gavin Martin, aged 18, of Motherwell, was given six months. All five admitted possessing cannabis.

Home improves

Lord Home of the Hirsel, who as Sir Alec Douglas Home was prime minister during the early 1960s, was recovering in hospital yesterday after having suffered a stroke. Lord Home, aged 87, was taken to Sarum private hospital in Winchester, Hampshire, on Monday. A hospital spokeswoman said: "He is showing a steady improvement and took a telephone call this morning."

Subsidy appeal

Farmers in the European Community should receive subsidies only if their methods of growing crops and rearing livestock benefit the environment, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds says in a report published today. As many as 43 bird species are threatened in Britain by intensive farming practices and could benefit from a change in the way subsidies are allocated, the report says.

Inflation 'wipes out extra £3bn for health service'

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MOST of the extra £3 billion secured by Kenneth Clarke, the former health secretary, to spend on the health service next year will be wiped out by inflation and pay awards, the government was told yesterday.

The Healthcare Financial Management Association predicted that if pay awards rose to 9 per cent next year, there would be no money left to develop hospital and community services. Even if pay awards stay at the 6 per cent provided for in the autumn statement, health authorities would have only £206 million for real growth in the service once demographic factors and medical advances had been taken into account.

This minimal growth also relied on health authorities

being able to raise £175 million in cost-improvement programmes and income-generation schemes.

Chris Grimes, director of the association, which is a branch of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, said: "Although it seemed a generous settlement, if pay and prices rise above 6 per cent and there is no central funding from the government, there will be difficulties next year."

Mr Grimes said that a large proportion of the extra £1.72 billion allocated for hospital services would be eroded by inflation, at 6 per cent (£885 million), and the knock-on effect of a shortfall on pay and prices last year, estimated at £300 million. The implementation of the health service

reforms and other calls on income such as clinical grading appeals and medical negligence would cost a further £200 million.

The association's financial report on the health service, published yesterday, showed that health authorities overspent by £100 million in 1989-90, an underlying deficit that had to be cleared by April next year before an internal market starts operating. Although Mr Grimes is confident that almost all this recurrent deficit would be eliminated in time — albeit at the expense of bed closures — he pointed out that health authorities also owed a further £100 million to creditors.

The association has broken down the cost of different specialties in different parts of the country, revealing wide variations. The cost of an orthopaedic operation was nearly twice as expensive in a London teaching district (£1,312) than a provincial teaching district (£797) or any other district (£718). The report said that £37 million could be saved on orthopaedic services alone if all districts managed to reduce their costs to the national average.

Mr Grimes advised William Waldegrave, the health secretary, to proceed cautiously with the reforms and suggested that fewer than half of the 65 hospitals that had applied to become self-governing should proceed.

Health Service Trends (CIPFA, 3 Robert Street, London WC2N 6BH; £75 to health authorities)

Equity man quits after 17 years

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR official of Equity, the actors' union, has resigned because of "serious misconduct" in achieving union membership for two young women he met in a night club, one of whom he believed not to be qualified.

Archie Macmillan, aged 55, assistant secretary (variety), has left after more than 17 years on the union's staff. Equity has launched an investigation into how the two women came to be granted membership.

Equity said that Mr Macmillan had resigned over his relationship with the women and the fact that they had been given membership had become known to a number of people who frequented the club. "Mr Macmillan felt that he could no longer represent the union."

The union has often come under attack for its alleged exclusivity although Peter Plouviez, its general secretary, denies that it has ever operated a pre-entry closed shop.

Judge who called Lord Chief Justice dinosaur rebuked

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor has delivered a public "serious rebuke" to James Pickles, the circuit judge, over remarks in which he likened the Lord Chief Justice to an ancient dinosaur.

In letter marking the climax of several months' correspondence with Judge Pickles, Lord Mackay of Clashfern said that his remarks, made during an impromptu press conference in a public house, merited serious rebuke.

However, in the letter, released by the Lord Chancellor's department yesterday, Lord Mackay said that he would not be taking any further action because Judge Pickles had accepted that he should not have made the remark and had apologised.

This is only the second time in recent years that a judge has been rebuked by the Lord Chancellor. In December 1988 Lord Mackay rebuked Sir Harold Cassel, QC, over remarks he made when he failed to jail a former policeman convicted of abusing his step-daughter.

A rebuke is the one sanction available to the Lord Chancellor short of dismissing a judge under the Courts Act, 1971, for incapacity or misbehaviour. Judge Bruce Campbell, QC, was dismissed by Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone when Lord Chancellor over a customs offence.

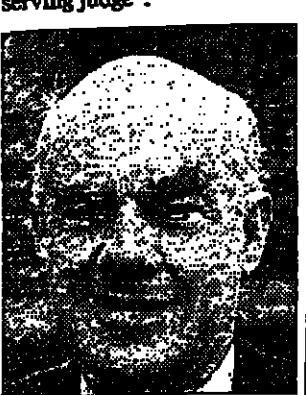
Judge Pickles made his comments at the press conference in January after Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, criticised him for jailing a mother aged 19, with her baby, because she had allowed customers to steal from the shop where she worked. The Lord Chief Justice sitting in the Court of Appeal freed the woman.

Judge Pickles' sentence and his comment that releasing the young woman would encourage women offenders to think they could avoid jail by getting pregnant.

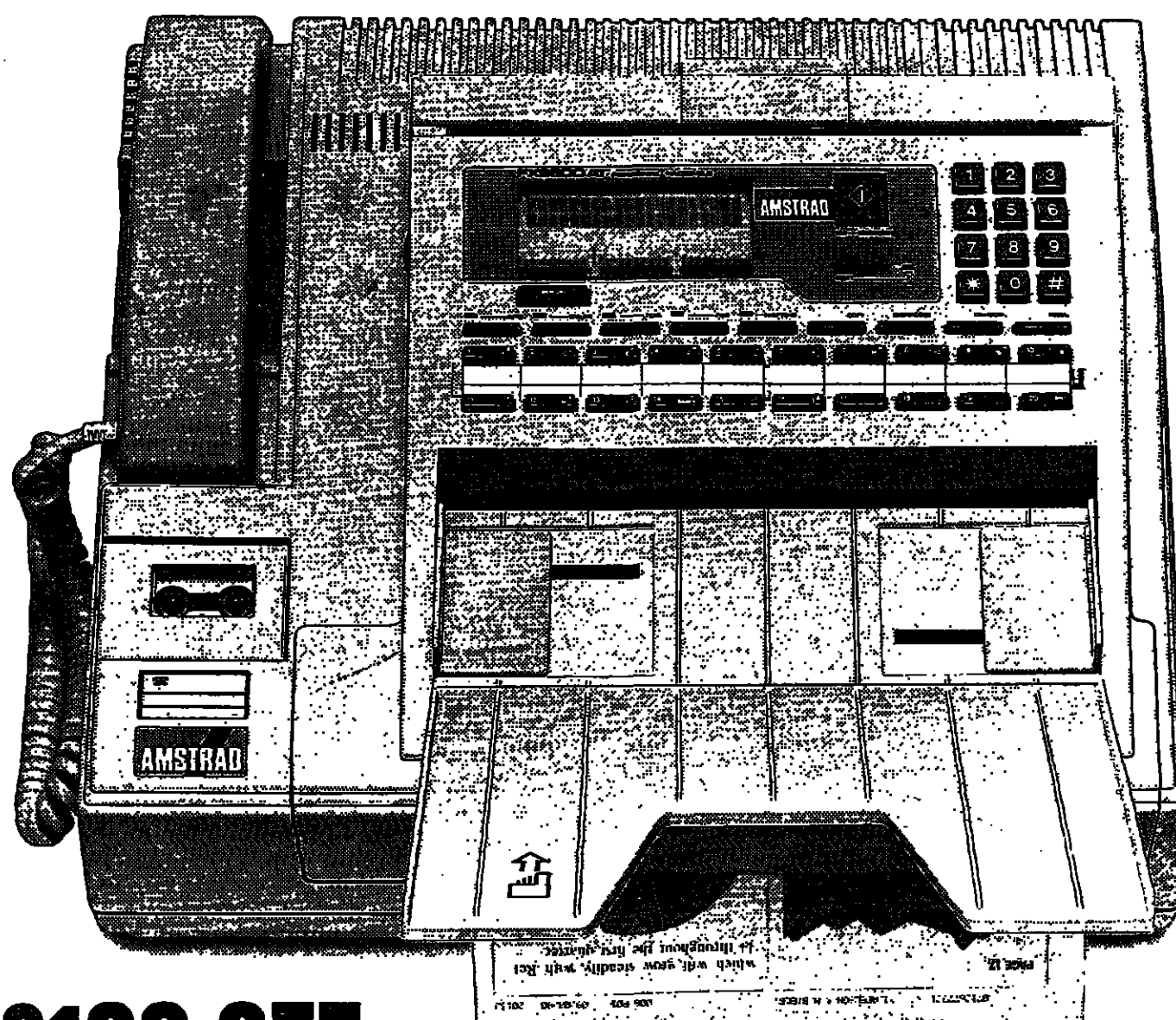
Yesterday, in his letter, which came after other correspondence and a meeting with Judge Pickles this month, Lord Mackay pointed out that the judge had made his remarks despite his undertaking to the Lord Chancellor last year that he would not discuss in public any case in which he had been involved in a way that identified the case.

It was not the first time the judge, who has said he will retire next year, had attracted controversy. He once described the previous Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, as a brooding, quixotic dictator and a pompous, toffed-off old Etonian.

In his letter, Lord Mackay also made clear his concern about Judge Pickles undertaking media engagements for a fee. He accepts the judge's assurance that he will not in future accept fees for appearances, engagements or newspaper articles "which depend on the fact that you are a serving judge".



Pickles: no further action is to be taken



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Township violence threatens reform talks

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's transition to multiracial democracy has entered a critical phase, following apparently inconclusive talks yesterday between President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, the deputy president of the African National Congress.

A joint statement issued after the two-hour meeting in Pretoria said both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to negotiations, but expressed concern at developments threatening the reform process. They had defined the "areas of concern" and agreed on the priority of issues requiring prompt attention. Mr Mandela's only comment to reporters was that the mood of the meeting had been "cordial, as usual".

The principal concern on both sides is political intimidation and violence, which has stalled movement towards constitutional negotiations, and differences remain on how to end it. Each has been blaming the other for bloody clashes between black dem-

onstrators and security forces. Members of a joint working group debating the issue said before the meeting they expected Mr de Klerk and Mr Mandela to draw up a "code of conduct" for protest demonstrations and the security forces' response. Any such agreement would have to be ratified on both sides before being announced.

The ANC is also increasing pressure on the government to resign and make way for a multiracial administration to supervise the drafting of a new constitution. Thabo Mbeki, the foreign affairs chief, repeated calls for a more representative government. Addressing a business conference in Johannesburg, he argued that an interim government would reduce political conflict and instil confidence that the elimination of apartheid was irreversible. He said the National Party government should realise it had been placed in power by a small minority of South Africans, and should accept the need for joint supervision of the transition to democracy.

Pretoria is firmly opposed to the idea, as well as to ANC demands for a constituent assembly, and President de Klerk has given no indication of relenting. However, the ANC campaign is gathering momentum. It has gained support from more radical groups, such as the Pan Africanist Congress and the Azanian People's Organisation and yesterday *Business Day*, a sober Johannesburg daily, expressed qualified approval.

Referring to the unprecedented level of political violence, the newspaper said: "Absolute National Party rule over the country is steadily losing the legitimacy required for effective government... Once agreement can be reached on some form of power-sharing during negotiations, there is more scope for creative thinking than the angry protagonists may think right now."

Mr Mbeki repeated the ANC view that all forms of protest should be permitted. "Demonstrations take place because grievances have not been addressed, and not because the demonstrators are bloody-minded," he said. It would be over-optimistic to expect less conflict in South Africa than had occurred when governments changed in Eastern Europe.

Mr de Klerk has called a three-day conference of his cabinet and senior party officials at a secret location near Pretoria next week to debate future strategy. A similar meeting a year ago led to the decision to unban the ANC. Government sources expect the conference to focus on plans to broaden the negotiation process into a multiparty forum, and on pledges to repeal remaining apartheid legislation during next year's parliamentary session.

The peace talks were given added urgency a few hours before they began, when at least 11 people were shot, hacked and stabbed to death in a squatter camp on the outskirts of a black township near Johannesburg.

Trend setters go for greasy hair

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

CALIFORNIA'S Golden Boys are abandoning their blow-dryers and throwing out their shampoo to achieve the latest fashion in hair styles - dirty hair. Hairdressers on the cutting edge in Los Angeles report that young trend-setters are asking for the "into the wind, Harley-man look".

"What started as a move away from traditional yuppie-looking hair styles has emerged into a trend for men who want to look more macho and streetwise," said the Beverly Hills stylist Allen Edwards, who owns six beauty salons in southern California.

This unkempt style has been dubbed *le look Mickey Rourke* after the tousled locks of the star of the films *9½ Weeks* and *Wild Orchid*, and has already appeared on the models of the French designer, Jean Paul Gaultier, and in the pages of *Italian Vogue*.

Some say the fashion travelled across the Atlantic from Britain where limeres are still renowned for their aversion to bathing. But the greasy look is as much a throwback to the late 1960s and early 1970s when hippies made hair a political statement.

Music and clothes from that era have made a dramatic comeback this year as the first generation of the youth cul-

ture grows old enough to become nostalgic and a new generation of teenagers emerges.

The unwashed look fits snugly with the new concern for the environment and the anti-chemical bias which it entails.

Hair stylists and hair-care manufacturers have fought back against the greasy-haired look by insisting that it is best achieved with the use of their skills and products.

Mickey Rourke's manager insists that the actor washes his hair daily and then uses lots of gel. But to stay ahead of the game, he has recently had a haircut.

Indeed, baldness may be the next fashion to sweep America. Trend-setters have spotted an unusual number of stars going bare-top.

Again, the style seems to be a harking back to the days of shiny-pated Kojak played by Telly Savalas. Several other stars have refused to wear their hairpieces off-screen.

But for some the decision is not one of choice. When the former junk bond king, Michael Milken, was sent to jail for 10 years, the headlines in the popular press focused on the fact that because of prison regulations he would have to live sans toupee.



Last lap: Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan returning home in a horse-drawn carriage after the emperor's two-day pilgrimage to the shrine (center reports from Ise). After arriving at the first of two shrines dedicated to the sun goddess and the food god, Japan's founding

deities, Emperor Akihito entered its inner sanctuary to perform a secret rite in private. "Only once during his reign does the emperor make this type of pilgrimage, to report his enthronement to the gods after completing the celebrations," a priest at the shrine said.



Lee keeps his finger on pulse of Singapore

By DAVID WATTS

SINGAPORE'S first new prime minister in more than 30 years unveiled his government yesterday with only one fresh face in the line-up. The new name is an unknown who will join a new ministry of information and the arts.

To underline the lack of change in Goh Chok Tong's government, Lee Kuan Yew is named to the post of senior minister in the prime minister's office. Combined with his position as secretary-general of the People's Action party, Mr Lee clearly intends to guard his legacy tenaciously - from the grave if necessary.

"Even from my sickbed, even if you are going to lower me into the grave and I feel that something is wrong, I will get up."

Mr Lee's nightmare is that a radical government will win power, ignore its Confucian upbringing and waste the country's inheritance like some spoilt child. But the more immediate problem for his successors is not the exchequer but declining relations with neighbouring countries and the increasing drain of talented Singaporeans wanting to escape the claustrophobic atmosphere engend-

ered by a managed press and a "punny knows best" government. Foreign relations will be hard to repair, given the personal nature of Mr Lee's foreign policy.

Only three days before Mr Goh was due to take office, Mr Lee signed a new water agreement with Malaysia, one of the few bright spots in a relationship which is deteriorating not only at the official level but because of the demeanour of the rich "angly Singaporean" who now treats the rest of Southeast Asia much as the Americans did in an earlier era.

Despite all his efforts to educate the people and enhance their standard of living, Mr Lee never understood that, having got that higher standard of education, the people would seek the Western values of democracy and freedom of speech that he once so much admired and now finds less attractive. Like any father, Mr Lee still looks on his people as children unable to appreciate the changes they have gone through.

Mr Lee so far has provided for his people's material needs. The search for a spiritual-political credo goes on.

THE CHILDREN OF ROMANIA

"THEY DID NOTHING TO DESERVE THIS NIGHTMARE. IF WE DO NOTHING A WORSE NIGHTMARE IS CERTAIN"

David Grubb, European Director, Feed The Children. 21/10/90 Negru Voda, Southern Romania.

A year ago, the Western World knew little of the plight of 'Ceausescu's Children'. The uprising heightened our awareness but, tragically for tens of thousands of children, Ceausescu's legacy remains. Empty stomachs, empty medicine cupboards. Institutionalised corruption and virtual imprisonment of children in crumbling orphanages.

In October of this year, two senior Feed The Children personnel visited Romania. They found, to their horror, evidence of aid being misdirected and mismanaged. They made promises. Promises that aid provided through Feed The Children would reach the children for whom it was intended. It would neither rot in warehouses, nor find its way onto the black market. The promises were made. Now could they be kept?



Negru Voda, Romania. Oct 90. Feed The Children visit the orphanage.

face the harsh winter ahead.

It's the same story at the soup kitchen and the orphanage at Negru Voda. Feed The Children has brought hope. Arrangements made for the safe storage and scrupulous distribution of the aid (to be supervised by Feed The Children staff), the lorry, by now several tons lighter, begins its journey back to the UK.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. BUT BARELY STARTED.

The problems facing Romania's children cannot be banished by a single influx of aid. We estimate that each of the

institutions we have already helped will need further support early in 1991. And there are dozens of equally deserving causes.

Our next trip to Romania is already scheduled. This trip we relied on businesses to give us the aid we needed. Now we must ask for the help of the people. We know you care. Please give. As generously and as quickly as you can.

Ceausescu's children did nothing to deserve this nightmare. Please don't stand by and do nothing now.

22 OCTOBER 1990

GATHERING THE AID STARTS. On their return to the U.K., the Feed Children staff examined the 'needs list' they had brought back from Romania. Blankets, plastic sheeting, shoes. Canned soup, mattresses, bed linen. Medicines, food and drink concentrates, tinned fruit. Disinfectant,

14 NOVEMBER 1990

THE AID IS ON ITS WAY. The Feed The Children lorry is loaded to capacity as it leaves our Reading base. Throughout its journey, from Dover through Belgium, Germany, Austria and Hungary it is never unguarded. Feed The Children's European Director is onboard. In four days he doesn't leave the lorry.



Reading. 14th November 1990. The lorry is loaded.

detergents, soap, shampoo. A photocopier, an electric cooker, a washing machine and dryer. Antibiotics, antivirals, antimitotics. Toys, swings, climbing frames and ropes.

They then contacted organisations involved in the manufacture and marketing of these products. The story was simple: "We can get the aid to Romania - direct to the people who need it. Will you give us the materials?" Allied Lyons said "yes", Glaxo said "yes", Whirlpool said "yes", Amway said "yes", Lion Publishers said "yes", Lagap Pharmaceuticals said "yes". And these are simply the ones there is room to mention. Over 20 British companies said "yes" and over £90,000 in aid was raised.

19 NOVEMBER 1990

THE AID ARRIVES. Exhausted, but exhilarated, the Feed The Children staff begin their deliveries. At the Municipal Hospital Constanta, where medical supplies are welcomed as life-savers. At the orphanage at Cernavoda, 40 miles west of Constanta, where 160 children aged from three months to five years are resident. 70 of these children are diagnosed HIV positive. Back in October, the orphanage's paediatrician and psychologist had agreed priority requirements with Feed The Children. The arrival of the aid gives them hope to



The orphanage at Cernavoda. 19th November 1990. Locals help unload the aid.

PHONE YOUR HELP TODAY.

You can make a donation to Feed The Children using your or . **CALL 0800 181 277** (calls free - lines open 9am - 6pm daily). OR USE THE COUPON

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To: Feed The Children, Romania Appeal, 23 Prospect Street, Caversham, Reading, Berks RG4 8JB.

I want to help the children of Romania by donating to Feed The Children. My donation will be used for urgently needed supplies and their safe transportation and distribution.

Please tick a box or write in the amount of your donation:

☐ £10 ☐ £20 ☐ £50 ☐ £100

Other: _____

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2: Please debit my Visa/Mastercard (delete which is not applicable)

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Card expiry date _____

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T71

Unwavering King Fahd attacks Iraq 'treachery'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN RIYADH

IN THE run-up to the United Nations vote on the use of force against Iraq, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, once regarded as the Arab world's great conciliator, has flatly dismissed any suggestion of talks with Iraq before its troops have withdrawn unconditionally from Kuwait.

"Negotiations on what? To compensate the aggressor? I do not think anybody will even consider it," the Saudi monarch said in a hardline speech delivered to Saudi citizens gathered in the al-Salem Palace in Jeddah.

Diplomatic sources said that the address was a determined attempt to convince Iraq and the world at large that there will be no wavering in the Saudi stand in the crucial weeks ahead.

The king disclosed publicly for the first time details of what the main Saudi English-language daily, the *Arab News*, described as "Saddam's treachery" in providing misleading information about his intentions in the days before the August 2 invasion.

King Fahd said that shortly before the invasion he had sent Prince Saud al-Faisal, minister of foreign affairs, to inquire about the intensified training of Iraqi forces. The prince was falsely informed by President Saddam Hussein that it was "routine training to enhance Iraq's military capability".

The king, like President Mubarak of Egypt, claimed President Saddam had assured him that he would not attack Kuwait. King Fahd said he tried to call President Saddam personally after the invasion, but the Iraqi leader had never responded.

During the long speech seen by some observers as an attempt to prepare Saudi opinion for the likelihood of war in the new year, the king staunchly defended the decision to bring in foreign forces, describing the immediate and united response of countries like America and Britain as a "blessing from God".

King Fahd said the Saudi army had not been capable of defending Saudi Arabia alone against an Iraqi force which on August 2 consisted of 150,000 men, 2,500 tanks plus warplanes and other armoured vehicles. He reassured his audience that the foreign troops would leave Saudi soil once the legitimacy of Kuwait had been restored.

Many senior Saudis are convinced that President Saddam will withdraw of his own volition once the UN resolution sanctioning force is passed. This conviction is not shared by many Western military experts. The king emphasised that a withdrawal from

Kuwait would not cause the Iraq leader loss of face, regarded as the crucial element in Arab diplomacy often ignored in the West, especially by American officials.

"If he withdraws his troops tomorrow from Kuwait, it will not cause him any humiliation," the king said. "I still call on the Iraqi president from this position, as I have done before, to let reason prevail. It would be nothing strange for him to declare tomorrow that he will actually pull out totally from Kuwait, without conditions, and leave Kuwait to its rightful government, people and leadership."

There were conflicting accounts of the clash at Shebaa in the eastern part of the security zone, nine miles north of Israel and three miles west of Syria. Israel radio first reported that one of the Arab infiltrators had blown himself up in a suicide attack, but later suggested that one of the Israeli soldiers had accidentally dropped a hand grenade while coming under fire. An Israeli army spokesman said only that the clash, the fourth on an Israeli border since last Saturday, had involved "guns and grenades".

Two of the four Arab gunmen were also killed and one was wounded. The army spokesman said the heavily armed Arabs had been intercepted while heading for Israel to carry out terrorist attacks.

There was shock in Israel, not only over the fact that four Arabs had killed five Israelis, but also over the continuation of infiltration attempts. Eleven Israeli soldiers in all have been killed in border incidents in the past two weeks.

Apart from attacks in southern Lebanon, two Israeli soldiers have been killed on the border with Jordan and three — plus a civilian bus driver — were shot dead in Sunday's ambush of Israeli vehicles by an Egyptian border policeman near Eilat on the Red Sea.

The suspect in the Egyptian attack was said yesterday to have told Egyptian interrogators that he had carried out the murders in revenge for the killing of Palestinians by Israeli border police on Temple Mount last month. Israeli leaders attribute the attacks on Israel's frontiers to the "climate of fanaticism and agitation" created by President Saddam Hussein. But in the case of Lebanon they also point to signs that Shia Muslim militias, such as Hezbollah and Amal, are moving south after the Syrian-backed plan for the unification and "pacification" of Beirut.

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Israelis killed in border clash

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

FIVE Israeli soldiers were killed and a sixth was wounded yesterday in a clash with four Arab gunmen inside Israel's self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon, further deepening Israeli anxiety over worsening border security.

Israeli planes immediately launched raids on Palestinian bases in southern Lebanon in retaliation.

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Thirsty work: Officers of the 39th Royal Engineers take a break in their preparations for war in the Saudi desert

British hostages are sent to secret destinations

By ANDREW McEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE 58 British hostages moved from strategic sites in Kuwait, in addition to 350 Britons detained in Iraq and 400 living there but unable to leave the country.

The foreign office yesterday warned Britons living in Bahrain, Qatar and the eastern region of Saudi Arabia not to bring their children at school in Britain out to join them for Christmas. There are 7,100 Britons in the eastern province, 2,870 in Qatar and 4,725 in Bahrain, including a total of 7,495 women and children.

Small numbers of Britons continue to be allowed to leave Iraq. The Foreign Office said that three students flew to Jordan yesterday and it was believed that a further 10 people would be released following the visit to Baghdad by Ronald Brown, the Labour MP for Edinburgh, Leith. Ten husbands who were given permission to go after their

wives flew to Baghdad to plead for their release were also due to leave yesterday. A woman who had chosen to remain with her husband, held at a strategic site in Basra, has travelled to Baghdad to campaign for his release.

● DUBAI: American and Spanish warships in the Red Sea fired warning shots yesterday across the bows of an Iraqi freighter which ignored requests to stop (a correspondent writes).

The French destroyer Duplex joined the efforts to force the freighter, Khawla Bint al Zawrah, to stop, in an operation which naval officers say typifies the close co-ordination achieved between the navies patrolling the region.

The boarding party which checked the ship found it was not carrying any cargo which violated the UN embargo, and it was allowed to proceed.

The unpopularity of the embargo, for men who believed they would never have to serve again after surviving the eight-year Gulf war with Iran, has led the government to take extreme action in order to conscript some of its more reluctant soldiers. One street in

Baghdad was recently blocked off by security forces as an old-fashioned style press gang rounded up any young men of military age.

Some Iraqis, however, are desperate enough, or ingenious enough, to think up ways of disqualifying themselves from the call-up, as recruitment officers around the country are discovering.

One Baghdad taxi driver, who has to register or face execution for being a deserter, admitted being tempted to commit suicide rather than putting on his uniform again and joining his previously disbanded brigade as a gunner in a missile battery, one of the most vulnerable jobs in the event of war.

Other Iraqis with more influence are attempting less radical evasion tactics, including one reluctant soldier whose father bought him a plot of land. "Because of the food shortages he is meant to be exempt if he can claim to be a farmer," said his father. "But the army weren't fooled, so he is rejoining his unit in the new year."

Saddam breaks his pledge to Moscow

FROM NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

IRAQ appears to have reneged on a promise to the Kremlin that 1,000 Soviet expatriate workers would be allowed to return home by the end of this month. Soviet officials here said yesterday that a special envoy, Sergei Araklian, had arrived in the Iraqi capital to take up the matter.

The move marks the latest strain between the two countries which came to a head on Monday when President Gorbachev attacked Iraq during talks with the visiting Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, in Moscow. The Soviet leader demanded that all foreign nationals, and in particular Soviet workers, be allowed to leave immediately and insisted that Iraqi forces withdraw from Kuwait. Tass said "Iraq could face the very worst" if it ignored the warning.

Yesterday the Iraqi foreign minister rejected the call and reiterated that Baghdad would never succumb to pressure.

The Soviet Union, with 3,500 expatriates in Iraq, has the largest number of foreign workers trapped here. Earlier this month President Saddam Hussein promised Moscow's special envoy, Yevgeni Primakov, that 1,000 Soviet nationals would be allowed to return home by November 30.

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Gucci Ladies Gold Plated "Starry" Bangles Watch £295.00

Rotary Rose Gold Plated Case on Leather Strap £189.50

Gucci Ladies Gold Plated Bracelet Watch with 8 Interchangeable Coloured Bezel £295.00

Rolex Oyster Perpetual Day-Date II Steel and Yellow Metal Bracelet Watch with Pyramid-set Dial £2,490.00

9ct Gold Glendale Ring £75.00

Zhivkov confesses socialist sins and seeks West's mercy

A YEAR after his downfall, Todor Zhivkov, Bulgaria's former dictator, is a scared and angry man. He is particularly bitter towards the leadership of the ruling Bulgarian Socialist Party, the heir to the communist party, for trying to make him "the number one scapegoat in Bulgaria."

While admitting "political responsibility" in an interview, Mr Zhivkov said: "I am not legally responsible. I have not committed a crime against my people or the world."

The former leader appealed to people in the West, particularly the United States, to come to his defence. He said: "No other head of state in recent history has been so inhumanly treated. I am

Formerly among the slavish Soviet satellite leaders, Todor Zhivkov tells Tim Judah he was wrong and now puts his faith in the United States

nearly 80 and have been subject to 'vandal' conditions. I appeal to the West to check if Todor Zhivkov or his family have even one dollar abroad. I am facing corruption charges but I have only my clothes and very little money."

For 35 years, until he was overthrown in November 1989, Mr Zhivkov, was Bulgaria's undisputed master. Under him, Bulgaria had the reputation of being the Soviet Union's most loyal ally and Mr Zhivkov himself of being the most

obsequious of the East European satellite leaders. Today, under house arrest and facing trial, Mr Zhivkov claims that socialism was a mistake.

"I have been a soldier and I have been a communist," he said in the interview at the luxury villa of his granddaughter, Evgenia, "but I have also been honest... I have served my people and country but now I must admit that we started from the wrong basis. The socialist foundation was wrong," Mr Zhivkov said that, if he

had his time over, he would not have been a communist and neither, if he had been alive today, would Lenin.

"Now perhaps we have to cling to the United States. If I was ruling today, I would go and decisively strike a deal with the United States. I say this not just for pragmatic reasons but out of a deep conviction."

In 1973 Mr Zhivkov said the Soviet Union and Bulgaria would "act as a single body breathing with the same lungs and nourished by the same bloodstream". Reminded of this, Mr Zhivkov chuckled in avuncular fashion and dismissed such talk as mere "rhetoric and imagery".

Mr Zhivkov claims that he began to lose his faith in socialism in 1956, the year

of Khrushchev's denunciation of Stalin. However he added: "I would not say that I had realised how absurd some of its characteristics were. If I had known, I would have been lying."

Mr Zhivkov describes socialism as "stillborn". Asked about the belief of Erich Honecker, the former East German leader, that communism would still triumph, Mr Zhivkov scoffed "utter nonsense".

On Bulgaria's participation in the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, he said: "From today's point of view I have no doubt that it was an occupation and that nothing can justify it. But at that time we were allied to the Soviet Union and we had to participate. I could do nothing by myself. I was not exactly ordered to participate but I could not refuse."

When Mr Gorbachev came to power in 1985 Mr Zhivkov began to look increasingly anachronistic and perestroika and glasnost were introduced to Bulgaria only haltingly and grudgingly. However, Mr Zhivkov claims that this impression was wrong and in fact that he had been far ahead of Mr Gorbachev.

He then produced a document that he claimed was the transcript of a meeting between himself and the Soviet leader in 1987. In it, Mr Gorbachev berates the Balkan leader for having around him people who "even as much as think of making Bulgaria a mini-West Germany or mini-

Japan... such orientations concern us".

Discussing Bulgaria's secret services, Mr Zhivkov said that their alleged involvement in the infamous "poisoned umbrella murder" of the Bulgarian exile and writer, Georgi Markov, in London in 1978 was "imagination". He added: "I have never signed a political death warrant."

In the recent memoirs of the KGB defector, Oleg Gordievsky, the author claims that Markov was killed by the KGB at Bulgaria's request. Mr Zhivkov says: "This is a lie... Can you imagine me going to Brezhnev and asking him to do this?... these are all imaginary things, just like all the stories about the Pope."



Zhivkov: says Lenin would not be a communist today

Beaten rival backs Walesa to block way for Tyminski

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

POLAND'S prime minister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, whose government collapsed on Monday night, yesterday pledged his support for the presidential bid of his chief rival, Lech Walesa of Solidarity.

The peace offering was supposed to heal some of the wounds inflicted on Solidarity during the election. It was also intended to block the path to the presidency of Stanislaw Tyminski, the Polish-Canadian businessman who is challenging Mr Walesa on December 9 in the second, conclusive round of the election.

Mr Walesa indicated yesterday that he would have stepped down had his main challenger been Mr Mazowiecki, in the interests of national unity. "But with the challenge of Mr Tyminski I am now obliged to take part in the second ballot - we cannot surrender Poland into uncontrolled hands."

Mr Mazowiecki, tired and embittered, issued only a laconic statement of support for the Solidarity chairman. But one of his champions, Adam Michnik, explained: "Poland is facing the

prospect of chaos and depression. We do not withdraw a single critical remark about Lech Walesa," he wrote in his newspaper, *Gazeta Wyborcza*. "We still believe that his policy of waging a war at the top and of 'acceleration' has shattered the Solidarity camp, confused public opinion and entailed catastrophic consequences. But today only one candidate can be considered. The victory of Walesa will involve high risk for Poland - but the victory of Tyminski will bring the absolute certainty of degradation for our country."

Mr Tyminski has scared Solidarity into a semblance of unity. There was no real danger of Mr Walesa losing the race. But there was some risk that Walesa supporters would not bother to vote in large numbers, that Mazowiecki backers would boycott the ballot and that Mr Tyminski's followers, enthused by his dream of converting Poland into a Western-style society almost overnight, would turn out *en bloc*.

For Mr Walesa to win the presidency with only a narrow margin, on a very low turnout, would destroy the point of the election, which was to mobilise Poles for the next painful push towards the market.

Mr Mazowiecki submitted his government's formal resignation to President Wojciech Jaruzelski yesterday. However, parliament will probably oblige the government to remain in office until the new president is elected. Even this short limbo is starting to cause problems. At the emergency cabinet session on Monday night some ministers thought that the budget for next year, which should be submitted to parliament by the end of the month, should be withheld lest it bind the future government.

Dr Leszek Balcerowicz, the finance minister, who won the day, said this might lose international confidence. Mr Tyminski, meanwhile, continues to elude the probing questions about his background. He caused an uproar yesterday by suggesting President Jaruzelski made the right decision in declaring martial law in 1981, as he was faced by an internal threat. Mr Tyminski would not say whether he would use martial law if he became president.

Mr Tyminski has the support of some discontented workers and of young post-Solidarity first-time voters, but needs to poach votes from Solidarity if he is to stand a chance. His main argument is that the fast move towards the market has caused as much, if not more, damage than the communists.

Asked whether he was not embarrassed by the disparity of the contest - the man who destroyed communism competing against a man who escaped from communism - Mr Tyminski made the point that hundreds of thousands of Poles are still seeking an exit from Poland, thwarted either by communism but by the austere market policies of the Mazowiecki leadership. That appears to be his groundswell of support.



All smiles: a cheerful Lech Walesa, chairman of Solidarity, addressing a news conference at his headquarters in Gdansk yesterday

SPD hare paces himself for 1994 race as tortoise Kohl plods towards victory

FROM IAN MURRAY IN LUDWIGSHAFEN

FOR A man who must know that he is about to lose the most important election in his career so far, Oskar Lafontaine is in remarkably good spirits. The Social Democratic (SPD) no-hoper in Sunday's first all-German election is stomping the hustings, bringing a message of doom and gloom to a party faithful resigned to seeing Helmut Kohl win another four years.

Less than a year ago, Herr Lafontaine was one of the most popular politicians in the country, seemingly unstoppable in his drive to the chancellorcy. Unification under Herr Kohl's guidance changed all that. The polls have shown for some weeks that the chancellor's Christian Democrats have a 10 per cent lead over the SPD and the gap has, if anything, been widening as the campaign progresses.

Ponderous though he may be, Herr Kohl has easily humbled past his quick-witted challenger in the home straight and is heading for the finishing line with all the assurance of Aesop's tortoise. Herr Lafontaine, who enjoys betting at skat, Germany's favourite card game, made a bad gamble at the beginning of the year when he spoke out against too generous terms for German monetary union and opposed quick unification. That branded him as unpatriotic in the west, cost him the traditional left-wing vote in the east, and prompted Helmut Schmidt, the last SPD chancellor, to say last week that he deserved to lose.

Undeterred, Herr Lafontaine goes right on complaining that

unification was badly conceived, socially disruptive and downright dangerous. It is unlikely to win him many votes on Sunday, but privately Herr Lafontaine has written off his immediate chances and is preparing the way for what he believes will be a landslide SPD victory in four years' time. He can expect that, if he picks up at least a third of Sunday's votes he will be chosen to stand for the party next time around then thinks he will win handsomely.

His energetic electioneering, not often to packed houses, is directed to collecting at least that share of the vote, rather than to winning. The attack on him with a butcher's knife last April by a deranged woman has made him less confident, readier to accept the

possibility of defeat and put things in perspective.

He knows his arguments, a couple of months after unification, are too unpopular for victory now. Nevertheless, he hopes that next time round they will be regarded as wise and perceptive. He has built his case that Herr Kohl has got unification all wrong into an unscripted and witty speech, which he is delivering round both parts of the country on a special campaign train.

This week the train stopped off here in Ludwigshafen, where the chancellor was born and brought up, and where, in his home in the suburb of Oggersheim, he has entertained both President Gorbachev and President Bush in recent weeks. But Ludwigshafen is a staunchly SPD town. Herr Kohl has never won here and Herr Lafontaine is determined he never will.

Even though the audience only half filled a hall packed out to cheer the chancellor the night before, his challenger was in sparkling form as he went into his routine before a backcloth summing up his message of "a new way - ecologically, socially and economically".

It is scarcely a catchy slogan, but Herr Lafontaine makes it so. Hands fluttering like a tick-tack man, he holds the attention of the party faithful, playing for laughs, delivering punch lines with the timing of an Ernie Wise, whom he physically resembles so much.

He begins the speech with the environment, which he claims the government has been ignoring as it has rushed on with unification

plans. He is all for taxing petrol so much that people are forced to use their feet or bicycles, or to travel by train as he does.

He makes a lot of the unemployment figures. The government has been massaging them to make it look as though three million out of work in the united country is an achievement. The true figure is nearly double that, he argues, since it fails to include those paid an allowance for doing nothing because they are officially listed as on short-time working in the east. He goes for what he knows will draw the biggest laugh of the evening. Among them, he says, are the five ministers co-opted into the cabinet by Herr Kohl from the Volkskammer, who are now drawing DM32,000 (£11,000) for doing nothing in Bonn.

Germans should be proud to know they were now billionaires. He pauses for effect, and then adds "billionaire debtors". The debts would grow because Germans in the west would be called on to pay more for the pensions, wages and social charges of those in the east. Social inequality would grow, the health services and education system would suffer, and the government's failure to introduce an effective immigration law meant thousands of refugees from the east would pour in, disrupting the fabric of society.

He gives credit for unification to his mentor, Willy Brandt, and to the policies of President Gorbachev. Herr Kohl's only contribution, he claims, was to carry it out faster and more expensively than was necessary or sensible.



Lafontaine: prophecies of doom and gloom

New links with Poland forged at villa of German resistance hero

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN KRYZOWA

THE hamlet of Kryzowa, formerly Kreisau, lies frozen under a pall of frost and neglect amid the barren fields of lower Silesia. On a winter afternoon, the 200 residents are huddled in tiny cottages and a handful of straggly geese are the only sign of life in the courtyard of one of Germany's most famous family homes.

The estate of the von Moltkes, donated by Kaiser Wilhelm I to Bismarck's victorious field marshal for his leadership in the unification wars against Austria and France, stands in stony, dilapidated defiance of the onslaughts of time.

Apart from a few Polish families who lodged there when driven from the territories ceded to the

Soviet Union, it has stood empty since it was last home to the field marshal's heir, Helmuth von Moltke, who used the remote villa for meetings of the Kreisau Circle, which sought to bring down Hitler via the church, political institutions and the establishment. He was executed for treason after the Stauffenberg bomb plot to kill Hitler in July 1944.

His widow, Freya, fled from Silesia with her "secret treasure" - 1,600 letters he had written to her about his attempts to build a broad opposition to the Third Reich. Throughout the war she hid them in the estate's bee hives.

Since the thaw in German-Polish relations began last year, history has returned to Kreisau. With a group of Polish intellectuals from nearby Wroclaw, who

found inspiration in von Moltke's opposition to dictatorship, Frau von Moltke has set about commemorating her husband's work as a lawyer and diplomat who brought together church and political opponents of the Third Reich.

At 79 she has travelled from her home in America to raise funding for an international centre to be founded as the forgotten shrine of the Nazi resistance. "It was a shell," she said. "I was aghast when I thought of how beautiful it used to be, but now I am cheerful: this is the beginning of a new chapter for Kreisau."

Until recently the Polish authorities refused to allow any commemoration of the Moltke resistance. "It did not fit into the picture," said Adam Zak, a Jesuit

priest involved in the restoration. "The Moltkes were aristocrats, from a mighty military family. They were referred to only as plunderers and exploiters."

In the freezing fog of the courtyard, Cezimir Wyata, an elderly man who worked as a labourer on the estate, has waited several hours for Freya von Moltke, whom he refers to by her relinquished title of countess. "I just wanted to see her once again," he says in German grown rusty from disuse. "I always said that she would come, when the communists had gone. I wanted to see for myself."

But Frau von Moltke is anxious not to create fears of a return to the estate and is horrified by the flirtation of the expelled aristocrats of the east with the idea of

a return of the land. "I have no claim at all," she said. "How can I, a German, dare to claim anything from the Poles? Silesia must remain Polish as a mark of German repentance. My husband's life is to be commemorated in Kreisau and that is all I want from German history."

Inside the crumbling villa, the roof is held up by beams and volunteers work without light to save off decay. In the main dining room the elaborate stuccoed roof is still intact, together with an elaborately decorated tiled oven. The rest is darkness.

Restoring Kreisau will cost some 16 million marks (£5.4 million), a figure which seemed unobtainable when the project began last year. Then Helmut Kohl and the Polish prime min-

ister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, searching for a symbolic location to celebrate a reconciliation Mass lighted on the home of eastern resistance.

Herr Kohl's personal interest has led to the German government pledging a large donation to the costs. He has said he intends Kreisau to give young Germans the opportunity to meet Poles in the same way that community exchanges healed the war-wounds with France in his youth.

For Frau von Moltke the project is "like the closing of a circle". Describing its future role, she refers to the letter her husband wrote to his sons just before his death: "I have fought against intolerance and the absolute, merciless consistency of the Germans."

Leading article, page 19

Hanoi blitz on official corruption

Hanoi - Vietnam has sacked, tried or disciplined thousands of officials in a massive campaign to weed out corruption, but it said yesterday that it had not yet named many of the real villains.

The Communist Party newspaper *Nhan Dan* said that more than 18,000 officials from bank directors to policemen had been incriminated since the campaign began in July. But people were still reluctant to denounce their seniors and many corrupt officials had yet to be uncovered.

"People are still hesitant. They are not quite convinced of the results of this campaign," the newspaper said. (Reuters)

Women win

Lansanne - Switzerland's federal court has told the men of Appenzell Aargau that they must immediately bow to progress and grant their womenfolk a local vote, finally breaching Europe's last bastion of all-male suffrage. The court said that the canton's persistent rejection of women's suffrage contravened the country's equal rights law. (Reuters)

Basque bombs

Bilbao - Basque separatist guerrillas claimed responsibility for a car bomb attack which killed two policemen and seriously wounded two others nine days ago. Eta also boasted of four other bomb attacks. In one of them, last Friday a car bomb wrecked a Civil Guards barracks in Tarragona. One of the three other bombs blew off a guardsman's leg. (Reuters)

Drugs haul

Harare - Police have seized a huge haul of illegal barbiturates worth more than \$15 million and arrested a leading official of the radical Pan Africanist Congress. The *Herald* reported that Ramvudi Michael Mapfai, 32, deputy chief representative in Harare of the PAC, and two other men appeared in court and were remanded without bail until January 29. (Reuters)

Damages award

Sydney - A jury in the Australian Supreme Court has awarded Mrs Jane Makim, aged 33, the Duchess of York's sister, \$400,000 (£120,000) in compensation for defamatory articles in five Australian newspapers which, it found, had suggested she had committed adultery and had tried to take her children away from their home in Australia. Mrs Makim lives in Sydney.

Applications must wing their way in by 10am Wednesday, Dec. 5th

12



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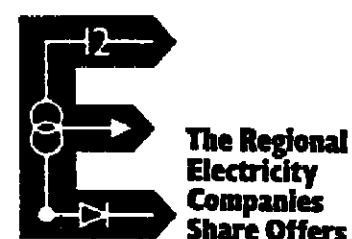
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A VERY BRITISH COUP

The United Kingdom has a new prime minister. The Age of Thatcher is at an end. In choosing John Major as leader, the parliamentary Conservative party has unequivocally looked forward rather than back. Mr Major is the youngest prime minister since Rosebery. He is the least known since Bonar Law and, until he went to the Treasury earlier this year, one of the least tested in high office. The change is as dramatic as when Margaret Thatcher seized power in 1975, in a coup almost as fierce as that which toppled her.

Mr Major now has urgent business to attend to. Conventional wisdom calls on him to reunite the Conservative party. That is the least of his problems. The party has always known where its electoral interest lies. After an obligatory period of mourning for Mrs Thatcher — it mourned likewise for Edward Heath — the party will rally loyally to Mr Major. This is a tribute good at survival.

Mr Major has one immediate task to make peace with his defeated rival, Michael Heseltine. The answer must be to offer him a job to suit his talents and interests, even if it is one he has had before. That might mean defence, where Mr Heseltine would have to prepare for a Gulf war and the run-down of conventional forces in Europe; or environment, where Mr Heseltine could push his partnership concept in the cities and revitalise local government once the poll tax has been replaced. Beyond that, Mr Major's government forms itself naturally around him. He has been bequeathed a young team by his patron, Mrs Thatcher, the chief blight on which has been too many recent changes. He should change little. A move of Mr Heseltine to environment and of the incumbent, Chris Patten, to the Treasury would do the trick.

Mr Major's most urgent policy reform is the replacement of the poll tax by some form of property-based tax, preferably after a bipartisan enquiry. This would lance the poll tax boil and take local tax reform out of party politics, proving emphatically that Mr Major is no poodle of the former prime minister nor of her party chairman. He now should admit what all democracies know, that there is no sensible alternative to a property base for local taxes.

So far, so simple. Mr Major next has to pick up Mrs Thatcher's great mantle in overseas affairs and try it on, gingerly, for size. Britain is second only to the United States in confronting

Iraq in the Gulf, where Saddam Hussein has boasted the toppling of Mrs Thatcher as his doing. Here Mr Major could do no better than defer initially to Douglas Hurd, running foreign policy as a dummie. Britain's continued commitment to the Anglo-American alliance is being tested in the Gulf. The swiftness of British support for President Bush and Britain's goading of Europe to help are firm bases on which Mr Major must continue to build.

Europe offers him other challenges. The Community is plainly about to enter a new phase of deep self-questioning. Mrs Thatcher's hostility probably acted as a cement, holding together other members with widely diverging interests who could now drift apart. A new, more subtle diplomacy should exploit these divergences, to ensure that European co-operation walks before it can run — for instance, over farm reform at the current, crisis-hit, world trade talks. Mrs Thatcher in Europe was cantankerous but right. A more emollient style is now likely from the Treasury and Foreign Office. Mr Major must show that he will not be diverted down routes which other European leaders covertly relied on Mrs Thatcher to block.

At home, Mr Major has even more substantive tasks, notably the managing of a British economy now in deep recession. He has seemed uncertain of late whether this one is deep and short or long and shallow. Most businessmen would reply, deep and probably long. Walking the famous tightrope between refuting too early for economic safety or too late for electoral recovery will be Mr Major's first, possibly crucial, test as leader.

Mrs Thatcher's personality was totally different from that of Mr Major. Her huge capacity to inspire both affection and aversion is to be replaced by a calmer, gentler style. Despite the propaganda of left and right, Mr Major carries no Thatcherite baton in his rucksack. He represents a return to Tory pragmatism, but also to some of the old uncertainties. He is concerned about the ragged edges left by the past decade, by the condition of education and by urban poverty. How he will convey this concern into policy is wholly unclear. Had Britain just changed its government at a full general election, its political future could not be so opaque as after this astonishing two-week coup.

A PLAGUE ON TRADE

In Brussels next Monday, trade ministers from 105 countries will be asked to reach agreements which have eluded their negotiators for four years — and do so within five days. They are meeting to put the final seal on the Uruguay round, the most ambitious attempt to liberalise international trade since the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was signed 43 years ago. Success will create rules for freer trade in more than \$1,000 billion worth of goods and services never before covered by the GATT, give teeth to the international procedures for settling trade disputes and create millions of jobs worldwide. The price of failure is the miserable possibility of a new global trade war.

The Uruguay round covers 15 areas which must stand or fall as a package. Free traders are right to say that no reduction in trade protection should be seen as a concession, since those with the freest markets prosper most. But politicians have to deal with powerful lobbies reluctant to face competition. Trade negotiations are therefore like caucus races: everybody must have prizes, enabling each political leader to claim special benefits from freer trade.

To judge by the documents before them, the ministers have an impossible mission. They must eliminate the remaining disagreements, some of them serious, from 391 pages of draft texts. The deadlock in three of the 15 areas — conditions for foreign investment, a new anti-dumping code and changes in agricultural trade — is so great that the officials have given up in despair and submitted no drafts at all. No serious talks on these items have taken place, since there is no agreement on first principles.

The task for the trade ministers is not to agree on details but to show the flexibility needed for a breakthrough on the three items. That might start a virtuous circle of trade-offs. By common consent, success hinges on agreement to free agricultural trade. Without farm reform, some countries may walk out of

the talks altogether. Without freer trade in food, there is no prospect that the American Congress, which recently set an example by reducing farm subsidies by nearly 25 per cent, will agree to the rest of the package.

The key is held by the European Community and, within the EC, by France and Germany. The EC is completely isolated in its refusal to offer deep cuts in farm subsidies, for fear of the impact this might have on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, complains that the Americans are treating the EC's 12 governments like "plague carriers". American exasperation is justified.

Washington seeks 90 per cent cuts in export subsidies, which distort trade by dumping food on world markets at below domestic prices, and 75 per cent cuts in other subsidies such as price supports for farmers. The United States has the support of the great majority, including the Cairns group of 14 countries whose 227 million farmers produce a third of the world's farm exports. The EC stalled for nearly four years before cynically coming up with an offer to cut subsidies by 15 per cent below present levels which was bound to be rejected.

The EC must give way. A text the EC should be able to accept was hammered out last summer by Aart De Zeeuw, chairman of the GATT's agricultural negotiating group. The EC's partners, including the Americans, would be prepared to consider some such compromise, provided the EC moves. The main obstacle has been Chancellor Kohl's cowardly refusal to risk the vote of a single farmer in this Sunday's elections. EC trade and farm ministers meet on Sunday night for an eve-of-conference session. By then Herr Kohl would have nothing to lose by altering an indefensible German position which sits ill with his one-time pledge that a united Germany will be a responsible actor in international politics.

DEUTSCHE REICHSBAHN REGRETS...

"German railways on strike" is the kind of headline newspapers love. Like "Teetotalism grips Australia" or "Zurich bans gnomes", they sense that such an irony may not recur in a lifetime. For those Britons who have smarted for years under the mocking German phrase, "the English disease", smugness is natural. Has Germany caught *die englische Krankheit*?

But beware the smugness. The strike in question concerns the 260,000 employees of the former East German railways. With their families, these railwaymen make up some 5 per cent of the population of eastern Germany. Due to such spectacular overmanning, many face the sack. The network has archaic as the title, Deutsche Reichsbahn, as keeps its steam engines widely used until ten years ago. The name suggests an old-fashioned level of comfort which is not, alas, justified by the service. Only their uniforms are impressive. The West German Bundesbahn (official) whose staff have the rank of *Beamte* (official) and are not allowed to strike, has remained aloof. The Wall inside railwaymen's heads has survived the demolition of the concrete one.

The stoppage began at six o'clock sharp on Sunday evening, when notices appeared at 26 stations in eastern Germany. These displayed a limp prose style of which Jimmy Knapp would have been proud: "Achtung Reisende. As a result of industrial action measures all main line rail traffic is interrupted. We request your understanding."

Some passengers wished the strikers well. Others, lacking the practice in patience

provided free of charge by British Rail, showed scant sympathy. They pointed out that they were losing their jobs in their thousands too. After nearly 60 years under assorted dictators, the trains still had not run on time. Now the trains and their drivers had been blessed with democracy, they did not run at all.

The parallel between eastern Germany and postwar Britain is, despite obvious differences, enlightening. This country, too, ran something like a command economy between 1940 and 1945. Bits of it survived into the 1950s and beyond, including British Rail. Unlike its communist counterparts, however, the British state sector could not coerce its employees; strikes took place even in wartime. Competition in productivity was discouraged by general consent. The folk-memory of the Shump had convinced British trade unionists that employment must be shared out equally. When the consensus collapsed in the 1970s, strikes proliferated. Then came Mrs Thatcher.

In eastern Germany, the experience of an entire British generation has been telescoped into little more than a year. The onset of Thatcherite realism may be similarly telescoped. The strike on the Reichsbahn is intended to hinder. Eastern Germany may briefly go down with the British disease, and probably be inoculated against its repetition by a single winter of discontent. The eventual result may well be a unified railway network. A messy cure, certainly, but little cause for British *Schadenfreude* after all.

Nato help for Soviet Union?

From Mr Hugh Hanning

Sir, How should the West respond to President Gorbachev's week-end appeal to help him prevent a famine, and urban riots, within the next three weeks (reports, November 26)? The EC may stir itself after next month's summit, but meanwhile there are other channels.

You recently published a letter from the Fontmell Group (September 14) indicating how the Jordan refugee problem could be relieved by an approach via the UN to Nato. The letter was read and acted on by the Jordan government. Might I suggest that this formula would today apply a *fortiori* to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Nato countries are now individually offering military medical stores to the Soviet Union. For two reasons a joint Nato approach could expedite this process. One is the sheer geographical scale of the problem, and consequent need for co-ordination. The other is that the main requirement is agreed to be logistic, a sphere in which Nato exists and could complement any action by the EC.

The Nato secretary-general is known to favour such a co-ordinating humanitarian role. But Nato can only act in response to a request by a head of government.

Mr Gorbachev might think twice before making such a request, although his government has proposed the creation of joint Nato/Warsaw Pact disaster units, and *The Times* tells us today (early editions) that he is accepting a big airlift from the Luftwaffe. But other East European governments, who are very keen on Nato, might consider this a good way to get early action.

Yours etc.,
HUGH HANNING (Chairman),
Fontmell Group on Disaster Relief,
18 Montpelier Row,
Blackheath, SE3,
November 26.

From Mr Roy Miles

Sir, Russia's involvement and great sacrifice in lives helped our nation survive the last war.

Let us now send food and forge new-found friendship to help the Soviet people survive these difficult times.

Yours sincerely,
ROY MILES,
Roy Miles Gallery,
29 Brunton Street, W1.

Local consensus

From the Chief Executive,
Thames Rivers District Council

Sir, Your local government correspondent (report, November 12) indicates growing political consensus on the need to create authorities which inspire local loyalty. He says the aim is to overcome popular dislike of artificial local government creations. Such propositions may well attract widespread support but by naming this authority in that category he makes the error of equating an "artificial creation" with "local unpopularity".

Our problem is similar to many suburban and rural areas. Naming the district after one part of it creates local tensions but a neutral name has other obvious disadvantages. Artificial the boundary may be but it unites the common interest of several communities not to become part of the "surrounding area" to Watford with county borough status.

Local people fought a similar proposition in 1974 and would do so again. The communities which inspire local loyalty in this area are at parish level — the amalgamation of this district with any adjacent ones is unlikely to meet with public approval.

Yours faithfully,
A. ROBERTSON,
Chief Executive,
Thames Rivers District Council,
17/23 Rickmansworth High Street,
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

Day-care surgery

From Dr Tom Parry

Sir, Miss Jane Lee (November 7) is quite right in stating that day-care surgery is inappropriate in some cases. As an anaesthetist involved in the care of day-surgery patients, I would like to reassure her, however, that certain criteria have to be satisfied before a patient is accepted for day-care surgery: one such is that the patient be accompanied home by a responsible adult who should stay with the patient overnight.

Yours faithfully,
TOM PARRY,
18b Cabul Road, SW11.

TV choices

From Professor A. S. C. Ehrenberg

Sir, An attractive counter to Sky's satellite monopoly would be to allow channels 1 to 4 to invest more in their programming. Instead, our present government has somehow set itself the task of reducing the industry's funding. Channel 3 franchises are to go to those who promise to pay most tax; Channel 4 is already having to cut its services so as to save £14 million; and the BBC is threatened with a reduced licence fee. But as shown by a London Business School study, money is not the issue for viewers. They are remarkably insensitive to the price of television.

Faced with competition from terrestrial channels which are not deliberately underfunded, Sky might in the longer term manage to gain a 30 per cent share in half our homes (i.e., ones that will by

Proposed reform of charity law

From the Director of the
National Council for
Voluntary Organisations

Sir, Your leader, "Failing in charity" (November 16), noted the failure of the government to announce in the Queen's Speech their intention to bring forward a bill to reform charity law. NCVO and the charitable world have long been pressing the government to do so.

The good name of charities depends upon their being subject to effective and sensible regulation, and that regulation system requires legislation. This is not only the view of charities and the National Audit Office: it is the consensus view of MPs of all parties. In May 1990 the all-party parliamentary panel on charity law produced its report on reform of charity law, and has sponsored an early-day motion calling for legislation which attracted wide support from all sides of the House.

You mention a belief that charities "have become extravagant, inefficient and in some cases even corrupt". Efficiency in the charitable world is neither greater nor less than in the public or private sectors. It is, however, the subject of many major initiatives from within the sector itself, not least from NCVO. The report of the working party chaired by Lord Nathan, which NCVO convened and serviced, has set the benchmarks for improving efficiency. So charities are in consequence trying to become more, not less efficient.

The one thing that would help these developments would be a new charity law bill. We are doing our part; the government must now do theirs.

Yours faithfully,
USHA PRASHAR, Director,
National Council for Voluntary
Organisations,
26 Bedford Square, WC1.

From Mr Peter L. George

Sir, The enormity of the task of monitoring charities — their sheer number (over 150,000) and the logistics of effective supervision — means that, on the grounds of cost alone, we must look beyond the Charity Commissioners and their staff to hold the public perception of charities at the highest level.

In the course of attending several seminars on the subject recently, one simple fact emerged: there is an urgent need for a clearer understanding by trustees of their role and function. The vast majority of charities are small or medium-sized and a new approach to the education and training of their trustees must be found.

Self-education and self-regulation by the trustees of charities would be a significant step forward. There must be over a million charity trustees who need and desire help in understanding their task and how they may perform better.

Pimlico passport

From the Leader of Westminster
City Council

Sir, In a week when the son of a trapeze artist has been battling to become prime minister, and less than a year after the British Communist party threw in the towel lamenting "the fact of the past", the courts have ruled that we must remain legally wedded to an outdated class system ("Working class alive and well in Pimlico", report, November 27, later editions).

Westminster City Council wanted to scrap the restrictive covenant of the Duke of Westminster's Pimlico flats to enable less well-off families to become better off. Reducing poverty is about raising living standards, not levelling them downwards. Home ownership is vital. It is the first rung on the ladder to independence and capital assets.

In the last few years Westminster's home ownership scheme has given council tenants, housing association tenants and people on the waiting list an opportunity to own their own home at a price they can afford. Four out of five sales have been to these groups and over 10,000 people have applied to the scheme. Despite yesterday's judgment, we will pursue our classless goal.

Yours faithfully,
SHIRLEY PORTER, Leader,
Westminster City Council,
PO Box 240, Westminster City Hall,
64 Victoria Street, SW1,
November 27.

Fruitful errand

From Dr Donald Rau

Sir, It is possible that I won one of Mr McAuley's dwindling bunch of bananas (November 20) in a Red Cross raffle in 1943. The banana was displayed in the newspaper's window in Highgate village for two weeks prior to the draw and every day my mother took my brother and me to view the browning fruit.

The whole village gathered for the draw and the excitement was intense. I was an immediate hero. The banana was duly shared among the family and I can well remember the bitter disappointment I felt on eating my piece of the, by then, overripe and decaying fruit.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD RAU,
Flat 6, 37 Portland Place, W1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Assessment of orchestra funds

From Professor Anthony Field

Sir, How courageous of the chairmen of the four great British regional orchestras to state so clearly and categorically (November 24) that the present proposals to delegate responsibility for them from the Arts Council to regional arts boards would cause "fundamental damage". How, pray, will a southern regional board assess the work of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra if that is the only orchestra in the region?

The Arts Council's music officers and its advisory music panel used to be able to assess all Britain's major orchestras one against another; their standards and creativity varying over the years but all going from strength to strength.

The present secretary-general has recently cited the criteria for delegating Arts Council clients as including "geographical focus in the region, local authority funding, performing base and touring involvement" — nothing about standards and creativity. Anthony Everitt further stated that the criteria were chosen "to rest on objective situations rather than subjective value judgments because we would never stop arguing about them".

The setting of standards and assessment of creativity never hindered the Arts Council in the 40 years from 1946 during which the arts in this country flourished as rarely before. The waste of money on this proposed bureaucracy, cited by the four chairmen, will be compounded if the regional arts boards are not able to appoint music advisory panels of the calibre required to assess the work of the regional orchestras.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY FIELD,
152 Cromwell Tower,
Barbican, EC2,
November 26.

From Mr Peter Copping

Sir, As a member of the Hallé Concerts Society I am very surprised that its chairman believes that the Hallé Orchestra's standing is in some way dependent on how it is funded as a "national" institution. Surely its reputation depends on its artistic standing (now recovered from a bad period).

Its financial support should depend ultimately on pleasing its concertgoers, most of whom live near by. Unfortunately in Manchester citizens know only too well that "national" institutions mean London-dominated institutions.

The Hallé gets no grants from local authorities outside the area of the proposed regional arts board. It receives £295,000 from local authorities within the area (8 per cent of its income). It did play last season, more concerts outside Manchester than in Manchester, but 75 per cent of the planned 1990-1 concerts outside Manchester take place within 50 miles of the city.

Sponsorship (which makes up currently about 10 per cent of its income) is also from regionally-based companies, and the orchestra attracted £65,000 from local people last year in the form of subscriptions to the society (not season tickets for the concerts).

It is by any measure a successful regionally-rooted institution deserving of a national and international reputation. Given this I cannot see in principle why its Arts Council funding should not be managed regionally to strengthen the arts in the area, rather than by a group of essentially London-based administrators.

Yours sincerely,
PETER COPPING,
70 Cromwell Avenue,
Manchester 16,
November 25.

Cost of Attila

From Mr Kenneth Warren, MP for
Hastings and Rye (Conservative)

Sir, Simon Tait's revelation (Saturday Review, November 24) that £43,000 was lost on each performance of *Attila the Hun* makes me wonder if anybody is actually in charge at Covent Garden. This is equivalent to £20 per seat per performance.

Would any of the best and brightest of British businesses, whose names warmly support opera, accept proposals on their home grounds for a product costing 137 per cent of income? Or was a marketing budget not required from the 428 people involved in the production?

As one who has sought financial support for other lesser stage ventures of recognised quality for which ordinary people could afford tickets, it is galling to discover that the expectation at Covent Garden is they will receive yet more money on top of the £15 million grant for this year. No wonder everybody in the picture of the *Attila* team smiled so broadly at the camera.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH WARREN,
House of Commons,
November 26.

Playing our tune

From Mrs Greta Jacobs

Sir, Following Henry Magill's letter on "Greensleeves" (November 27), I recently telephoned a well-known City merchant bank who played "The Thieving Magpie".

Yours faithfully,
GRETA JACOBS,
16 Dacey Avenue, NW2,
November 27.

Signing off from the news at 63

Forget the icons on the drawing-room wall, the Afghan rugs on the sofa and the scarlet roses in the garden. They are for public consumption, and show the urbane side of the ITN newscaster Sandy Gall. Two more personal images can be found in his comfortable converted east-house in Kent. They point to old-fashioned qualities of boyish humour and derring-do which are now only hinted at when he summons a twinkle to his eyes and signs off from *News at Ten*. Typically for this diffident man, they are shut away in his downstairs lavatory. One, a black and white photograph, shows a younger Sandy Gall in the ITN studio. He beams with obvious pleasure; on the desk in front of him stands an outside bottle of whisky, which dwarfs the camera and everything else in sight. Beside this on the wall is a form ordering the expulsion of Henderson Alexander Gall, then a Reuters correspondent, from Idi Amin's Uganda in 1971.

At the end of next month Mr Gall, aged 63, steps down from the job he has done since 1970 — presenting *News at Ten* — and returns to the road as a roving correspondent. But the company is getting its money's worth. When he mentions that his last newscast will be on *News at Ten*, his artist daughter, Michaela, comments from an adjoining room, "What a cheek!"

It is wrong to infer that the lanky Mr Gall resents ITN's decision to pull him out of the newscaster's spotlight. His "lived-in face" — to quote an ITN colleague — will be replaced by the younger Alastair Stewart, while Mr Gall concentrates on "special assignments" for two years, until he officially retires.

Mr Gall, the Malayan-born son

Who cares how old TV newscasters are?
Andrew Lycett
reports as Sandy Gall leaves *News at Ten*

of a Scottish rubber planter, is too much of a gentleman to admit that this hurts. He has been discussing his departure from *News at Ten* with his employers for nearly a year. He feels "a natural term has come to an end: it's like leaving a university and starting a new job".

He does not particularly like the competitiveness of the television ratings war, anyway. Unlike his friend and colleague, Sir Alastair Burnet, he has never indulged in media politics. Asked about recent problems at ITN, he says only: "It has been a difficult period, but it doesn't really reflect on working on *News at Ten*. I've never been conscious of any great crisis."

He seems genuinely delighted to be returning to his first love — reporting. In recent years he has taken extended periods away from the Autocue, including five trips filming behind Russian lines with the Mujahedin in Afghanistan. It is all part of a carefully managed process — acknowledged by ITN — of gradually removing a well-known figure from the public eye.

Mr Gall already has his life planned out. He is on contract to ITN, which has first call on his services. His brief is to do special reports on stories behind the news. "So far we've only talked about going to the Gulf," he says. He shows some enthusiasm for investigating the effects of the Gulf conflict on

Saudi Arabia's internal development.

He also has some personal television projects in mind. He describes one, cogently, as "a foreign murder mystery which has never been properly explained", and he wants to do a six-part historical series — he even has his own company, Doubleton Films (named after his east-house), to make it. Then there is his literary output. He has just finished his seventh book — on the Kenyan naturalist George Adamson — called *Lord of the Lions*. This follows his autobiography, *Don't Worry About the Money Now* (a telling title), two well-received books on Afghanistan, and three thrillers drawing on his experiences in trouble-spots around the world.

So what of stories which circulated earlier this year, suggesting that Mr Gall and Sir Alastair, also aged 63, were about to be dumped because viewers (and, therefore, advertisers) considered them too old? Some people at ITN put these reports down to gamesmanship by its owners, the independent television companies. Sir Alastair, who was then on the ITN board, was the architect of the plan — since adopted in the Broadcasting Bill — to sell 51 per cent of ITN to outside investors, and the ITV companies objected to sharing a potentially golden goose.

In fact, market research tends to suggest that, rather than craving younger newscasters, Britons are strangely indifferent about who reads the headlines. ITN says its evidence backs the old theory that viewers prefer an avuncular figure "with some credentials" in front of the Autocue: like Mr Gall, in fact.

Adopting the same non-agist



On the road again: "a natural term has come to an end" is how Sandy Gall describes his departure

stance, the BBC says it does not go for youth or looks in its presenters. "We want people who can form part of a programme team," a spokesman says. However much news organisations reiterate this line, their day-to-day practice suggests otherwise. In the past the BBC has paid huge sums to entice younger frontmen, such as Martyn Lewis and Peter Sissons, to its network. It recently lost the *Newsnight* anchorman, Donald McCormick, aged 51, to London Weekend Television. His departure was widely reported as a

reaction against the emphasis the corporation now places on thirty-something presenters such as Jeremy Paxman.

In the United States the success of the Cable News Network is often attributed to a new breed of clean-cut young anchorpersons. However, CBS says the age of its presenters is not an important criterion. Its main night-time news is fronted by 59-year-old Dan Rather, while Mike Wallace remains at the helm of its flagship *Sixty Minutes* programme at the ripe old age of 72.

Vic Davies, the research director of a media buying agency, the Media Business, says there is no evidence that advertisers want younger presenters at ITN. Audiences for *News at Ten* may regularly be smaller than for the BBC's *Nine O'Clock News* (6.9 million in the last quarter to September, compared with 7.4 million), but Mr Davies attributes this to the programming around ITN. "News at Ten is the bit in the middle of a sandwich," he says. "If the bread's stale, it doesn't matter what's in the sandwich."

MEDIA WATCH

An eye on prejudice

THE *Jewish Chronicle* has lost its zealous monitor of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic articles in the British press. Philip Kleinman, who wrote the newspaper's media column, resigned last week following a decision by the new editor, Ned Temko, to widen the scope of the weekly column and lessen its frequency to make way for coverage of other media topics. Mr Kleinman says Mr Temko's decision "looks as though, at a time when the propaganda war against the Jewish state has never been fiercer, the *Jewish Chronicle* is backing away from the battlefield". Mr Temko denies the charge: "We continue to feel that where there is anti-Semitism or anti-Judaism, we have a duty to point it out and speak out against it. If you do only that, you do a disservice to your readers by wrongly giving them the impression that the only thing British newspapers ever do is attack Jews and Israel."

Reach for the sky

VIDEOTRON, Britain's fourth largest investor in cable television, plans to apply to the Independent Television Commission to provide alternative programming on the BSB Marco Polo satellite, which must be vacated by the merged British Sky Broadcasting at a yet undisclosed time. The Montreal-based cable operator says it has all the programmes it needs to "move in" now. But Videotron may run up against the same non-EC ownership regulatory hurdles that prevented a merged Sky/BSB from operating on the domestic satellite.

To Russia with love

LOVELY Soviet singles will have the chance to meet their perfect match in a Russian version of Sky Television's "relationship game show", *Love At First Sight*. Moscow's Channel One is sending a Soviet production team, six Russian contestants and a host this Friday to the Nottingham studios of Action Time, which makes the Sky programme, to record a ten-show Soviet edition. Several British contestants will also take part. Couples who choose each other on *Love At First Sight* win a night out together. They return to the next show, hoping to have learnt enough of their date's secrets to win a romantic "Love Trip" for two. Next May, the British production team will go to Moscow to oversee a series of 30 shows to be broadcast throughout the Soviet Union to 180 million people on Saturday nights.

M.W.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

Researchers, academics, librarians, journalists, advertising executives and the general public will soon be able to read back copies of *The Times* and the *Sunday Times* on their personal computers.

A year's worth of newspaper text, plus indexes and software allowing users to find specific articles, can be stored on a single compact disc, played on a CD player linked to a personal computer. Information can be located using one or more subject words. Photographs and graphics can also be provided.

The first *Times* and *Sunday Times* compact disc, known as THOR and covering all 1990 editions of both news-

Your papers delivered — on CD

papers, will be available in early January. Every three months after that, subscribers will automatically receive quarterly update discs containing all issues of both *Times* titles. Material for the years 1985 to 1989 will also become available in 1991.

A similar but separate system, put together for the *Independent* and *Independent on Sunday* by Bowker-Saur, which specialises in library databases, will also be available in January. The *Independent* archive will go back to November 1988. Although both newspaper groups claim

Back copies of *The Times* will soon be available via a personal computer

to have been the first to launch the CD-ROM technology, the *Northern Echo* will beat them by a month, launching a similar system on December 13. The *Guardian* is also thought to be well advanced with plans to publish on compact disc in

association with Chadwyck-Healey, the Cambridge database company.

Peter Sands, the editor of the *Northern Echo*, says his newspaper's CD-ROM system will be "invaluable for people who want to carry out research into the Northeast and north Yorkshire, such as a student studying the demise of shipbuilding, or a businessman seeking information on commercial property".

Sir Edward Pickering, the executive vice-chairman of Times Newspapers, says: "Storing newspapers used to mean

massive bound volumes occupying vast office space. Now I can summon up any item from a full year of events with one CD. It's sheer magic."

Those subscribing to *The Times* and *Sunday Times* on CD will be charged £975 for the 1990 disc plus five further quarterly discs up to March 1992. The Toshiba XM-2200 CD-ROM drive, software and interface card, which normally retails for more than £700, will be available exclusively to THOR subscribers at £395.

The *Independent* is charging £598 for 1989 and 1990 discs, plus a further £499 for 1991 quarterly updates. The disc drive will cost between £400 and £500.



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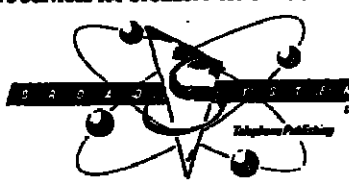


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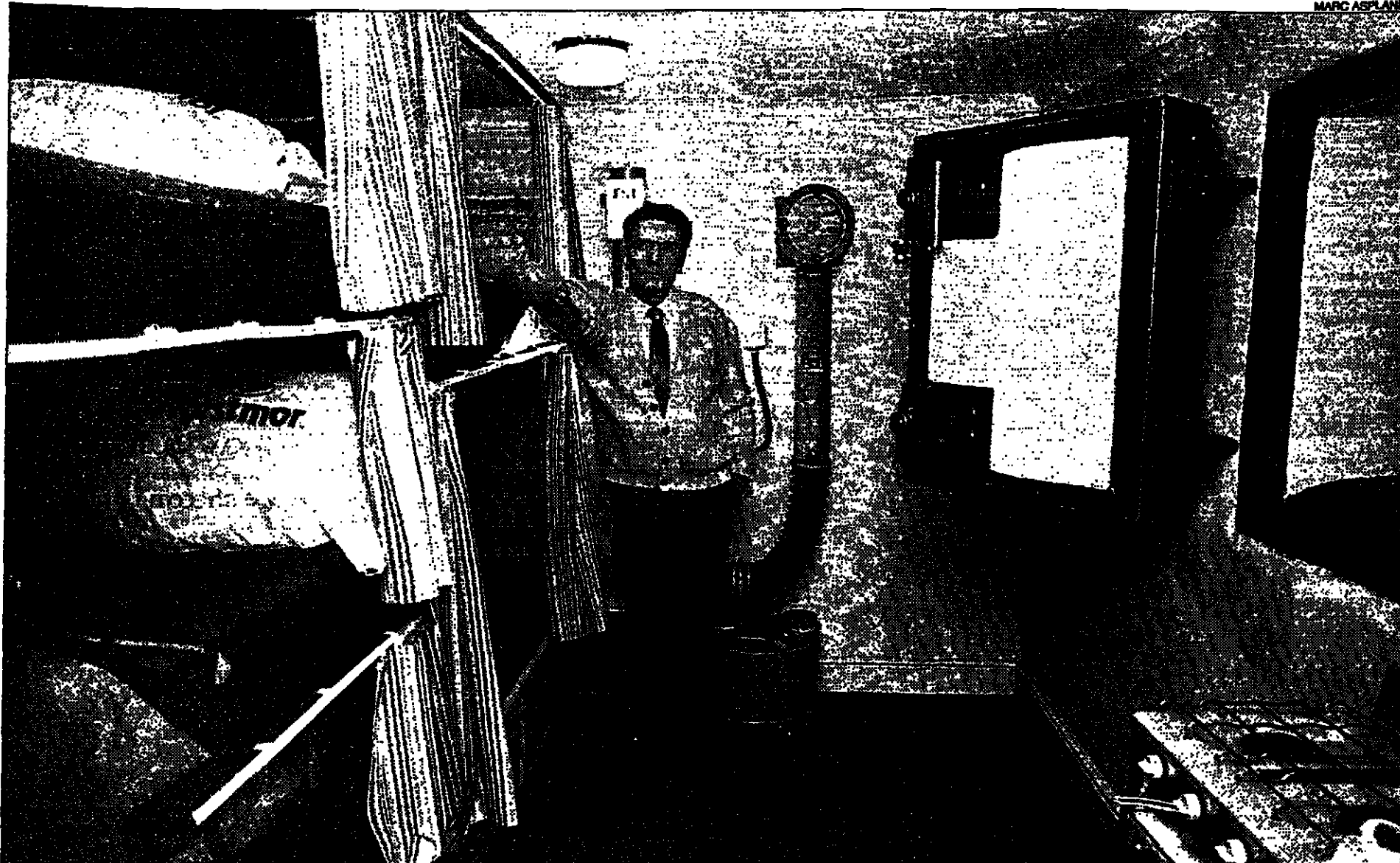
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Anticipating the worst: Colin Croft, of the Federation of Nuclear Shelter Consultants and Contractors, in the bunker, complete with well, he built to protect his family

Suburbia digs in against Saddam

While the official ending of the cold war may have led to a Home Office freeze on the building of government-funded nuclear bunkers, fresh stirrings of self-preservation are being reported in the gardens of suburbia.

The tension in the Gulf since the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait is cited as the main reason for renewed interest in domestic fall-out shelters, just as the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan a decade ago was responsible for their first surge of popularity in the early and mid-1980s.

The Federation of Nuclear Shelter Consultants and Contractors, which lays down guidelines for the construction of shelters, claims that the number of enquiries from members of the public has risen steadily during the past three months, and is continuing to do so. Colin Croft, its chairman, estimates the number of private bunkers in Britain at about 3,000, and likely to increase.

Most of those built at the start of the decade are thought to survive intact, even though the apparent lack of imminent need has modified the functions of some. In the quiet Surrey town of Chertsey, Jack Barrett, a retired Heathrow baggage porter who built his bunker in 1984 with 32 yards of concrete and a degree of native ingenuity, says: "Of course it's still here. I can't get rid of it, can I? It does make a pretty good wine cellar, and at present I use it for storage. Some of my friends thought I was completely round the twist, although after I had built it some of them wondered if they could reserve a place in the event of a nuclear strike."

Mr Barrett is one of several

The cold war's official end has not ended nuclear fears, and events in the Gulf have led to an increase in DIY shelters. Alan Franks reports

hundred householders who resorted to do-it-yourself techniques, encouraged by the fact that, provided the shelter protruded no more than 3ft above the ground, they could go ahead without having to satisfy the local authority's building regulations. His shelter, hidden among the apple trees and rockery at the back of his semi-detached house, boasts 18in thick walls of steel-reinforced concrete, a room 13ft by 8ft, and a compartment for a chemical lavatory. The total cost was about £2,000. "The only thing I didn't build myself was the steel door on runners," he says.

If the federation is correct in predicting a growing demand for private shelters, one of the reasons, oddly enough, could be the moratorium in the municipal sector. This is described by the Home Office as a holding measure while it reviews the future of its civil defence commitments. Plans for more than a dozen emergency centres, are affected by the freeze. In the view of David Moses, the president of the County Emergency Planning Officers' Society (Cepos), the big question will be whether in future these centres have to compete for funding with other calls on the local authority budget, rather than receive direct financial support from the government, as has been the case until now.

The cost of building a shelter in the garden can vary enormously. In the words of Mr Croft, there is "all the difference between a Mini and a

Rolls". The majority of those supplied by the federation's member companies are built to Swiss or Swedish designs, either from reinforced concrete or glass fibre and steel shells in concrete cladding.

In Switzerland, shelters come as a standard feature of new homes and the Swiss see no reason to overturn the 1963 civil defence law which made the requirement. They regard Chernobyl as an indication of the sort of environmental catastrophe, nuclear or chemical, that could oblige a population to go temporarily underground. Swiss households are reminded regularly to maintain basic reserves: sugar, rice, noodles, lentils, semolina, cooking oil and bottled water.

The Swiss shelter programme, with an annual cost of about £250 million, aims at subterranean safety ready for everyone well before the end of the decade. Because pre-1963 buildings do not have shelters, towns and villages have public shelters for which allocation of places has been computerised. By far the largest city shelter is in Lucerne. The Sonnenberg road tunnel there can be converted into a seven-storey shelter holding 20,000 people and has its own hospital and diesel generators.

So far, Cepos says, it has no evidence to support the federation's predictions that the British public is becoming increasingly interested in shelters. The society reports "only a handful of calls" in the course of a year, perhaps as little as two or three, compared with several each

day in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Meanwhile, the House Builders' Federation says that the inclusion of nuclear shelters in private home design remains, as it has always been, a scarcely perceptible trend. Likewise, the Building Societies Association reports an "insignificant" number of mortgage applications for bunker construction.

The British appetite has proved unpredictable over the past ten years, with Chernobyl and the Libyan crisis bringing negligible numbers of fresh orders to the manufacturers. One frequently advanced explanation is that whereas the Home Office booklet "Protect and Survive" had quickened a self-defensive mood in the minds of individuals after Afghanistan, this was effectively countered within three or four years by a sense of the futility of any civil defence in the face of nuclear aggression. None the less, the building societies concede that those shelters installed at the height of the fashion have at least held their value.

With the period of growth came the predictable advent of the cowboys. In Southampton one householder paid £2,000 for a shelter beneath his garden constructed only of railway sleepers. Elsewhere, a customer found himself paying for an unclad fibreglass shell which would have been shattered by the vibrations of a falling tree, never mind a nuclear holocaust; others parted with deposits of several hundred pounds, and never saw the

"contractors" again. Probably the most grandiose scheme of the decade belonged to a civil engineering contractor who spent £150,000 on a 75-person shelter in the grounds of his Sussex home, allocated 25 places free of charge, and left the remaining 50 to be filled at £6,000 a head.

The public sector, too, has seen its fair share of mishaps. In 1985 it came to light that one local authority in Somerset had a shelter with an outside water tank and lavatory, despite the regulation dictating that members should stay inside the compound for at least two weeks after an attack. The bill for improvements came to £20,000.

"If you build a shelter into the design of a new house, and have it done properly," Mr Croft says, "you can probably do it for not much more than £3,000." His federation is about to release a video containing advice and practical tips for the aspiring DIY bunker builder. "If you are constructing one separately, then it might be anything from £2,500 to more than £10,000. There is really no upper limit." At least he cannot be accused of failing to put his money where his mouth is. His own home in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, boasts a 12ft deep shelter topped with 3ft of concrete. "I built it above a well, so that we could draw the water up from underneath. With a proper living area, decontamination and ventilation, and the proper stocks of food, you could survive forever. Well, a very long time. Recently I heard about one man who went to view a house and then hardly looked around it at all. His only interest was in the bunker at the end of the garden. He said he had just been reading Nostradamus."

Lollipop lady who delivers

A dramatic change in the training of midwives means they no longer have to come from the ranks of nursing

THE NHS cord that traditionally bound the skills of midwifery to nursing has been cut this year in a dramatic reshaping of the way midwives may be trained.

Tomorrow's babies are just as likely to be helped into this world by a former A-level student or lollipop lady as they are by registered nurses who have chosen the following midwifery option.

This academic term, the first seven courses for pre-registration midwifery training began with schools of 12 to 18 students in Birmingham, north London, Stockport, Suffolk, Northampton, Winchester and Bristol. The required standard of education for the courses is a minimum of five O-levels, including English and a science, with evidence of either recent study such as A-level or work during the past three years.

Students will be entitled to an 80 per cent poll tax reduction and receive a minimum annual self-keep bursary of £4,000 (out of which they must buy their books), and at the end of their three-year course hope to emerge fully fledged midwives with a higher education diploma. Some will be able to take a four-year degree option.

The Royal College of Midwives says that the response to the course has been excellent. The college, which is keen to make midwifery a more attractive career, recently identified poor childcare facilities as one of the reasons why young midwives are leaving the service. This looks less likely to be a problem with the new-style midwifery trainees: about two out of three students in many centres are already mothers.

"We are losing about a quarter of our numbers," says Anne Thompson, senior lecturer in midwifery studies at the Royal College of Midwives. "That should be dramatically improved if we fish in the pool of mature women." Sister Thompson believes there need be no doubt that the specially trained midwife can do her job as well as a nurse who has had midwifery training. "We are not a branch of nursing," she insists. "As a midwife I don't need to know how to change the dressing on an ulcer."

The new numbers now being filtered through, says Chris Midgeley, the course director at Birmingham and Solihull College of Midwifery, PO Box 346, Bristol, BS59 7FB

will enrich the existing service. "More time will be able to be spent by midwives with mothers right through their pregnancies."

"A lot of doctors may see the mother for three and a half minutes only. A midwife can talk to her for between 30 and 45 minutes — and for longer if she has any problems."

Joy Prior, a 42-year-old mother of two and a former office cleaner and lollipop lady, joined a midwifery course in September. "In 1972 I had started my SRN training but couldn't complete more than six months because of a bad motorbike accident." After going to the college open day in the summer, she decided it was exactly what she had been looking for.



Alison Lloyd-Jones and charge

When the course is completed, Mrs Prior says she is considering working with Voluntary Service Overseas. "I wouldn't go on to a degree course. I haven't got time on my side."

AT 18, Alison Lloyd-Jones is the country's youngest course student working in Birmingham. "I had a choice of places lined up to study music in Bath, Lancaster and Kingston," she says. Yet even before her results came through she decided to take up her place at the midwifery course she had already been offered. "At first my parents were a bit shocked but they have been very supportive."

She notices a difference in the life she leads and that of university students: "Our holidays are only seven weeks a year, and our level of commitment is very much greater."

VIVIEN TOMLINSON, Training Inquiries to the English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, PO Box 346, Bristol, BS59 7FB

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& BRIEFLY

Ideas in motion

JUST in time for a certain Dulwich pensioner with new-found leisure hours comes *Out and About*, said to be "the first comprehensive travel and transport guide for older people". The book will be launched tomorrow at the World Travel Market at the World's Olympia exhibition centre. Produced by Age Concern in conjunction with the National Express and Caledonian Express bus companies, the book includes detailed information on such topics as negotiating the automatic barriers on the London Underground, arranging for a rail journey in a wheelchair, and planning a cycling holiday abroad.

The book costs £6.95 from Age Concern (Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4EJ) or branches of W.H. Smith.



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Green crackers

THE green-thumbed will appreciate Tom Smith's Garden Crackers, which are available from most garden centres. Reasonably priced, at £5.25 for eight, each cracker contains a different packet of seeds in addition to the customary balloon, joke and hat.

Puzzling it out

THOSE still in a quandary over the question of Europe may be enlightened by the latest puzzle from Mandolin Puzzles. The Europe jigsaw, made of hard board, blends history with geography in a way that Mandolin's puzzles depicting Dickens's London and American history have done. There are Mandolin puzzles commemorating Hoffmann's cartoons, the Elizabethan Age, the second world war and various musical themes. The company responds to the suggestions of its customers, so can a "Thatcher era" retrospective be far behind? Mandolin puzzles start at about £11.50 (the new Europe puzzle is £13.50) and are widely available, or can be bought by direct mail from the company. For a free catalogue and order form write to: Mandolin Puzzles, 9 Ella Street, London N1 8DE (071-278 2756).

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BRIEFING

Sir Harry's triple echo

THE premiere of Sir Harrison Birtwistle's new opera, *Gawain*, at Covent Garden next May — eagerly awaited after *The Mask of Orpheus* sent such admirers waves of electronic sound around the London Coliseum in 1986 — is only the first of three works the Royal Opera has commissioned from the taciturn composer. A second, a short-length chamber opera, will probably again have words by David Harsent, with whom Birtwistle's collaboration on *Gawain* has apparently been happy. After that, probably near the end of the century, will come another full-scale piece.

Ad nausea

THE symbiotic relationship between television advertisements and their pop music soundtracks has been amply demonstrated this year. "The Joker" by Steve Miller reached No 1 in September following its use in a jeans commercial, and "It Takes Two" by Rod Stewart and Tina Turner, the recording of which was specially commissioned for a Pepsi advert, is at No 5 this week. Next in line is a chewing gum commercial to be launched in the New Year featuring Free's perennial anthem, "All Right Now". The single will be optimistically re-released to coincide with the start of the campaign in January.

Last chance . . .

COMEDIENNE Thea Vidale, who calls herself "Houston's Chocolate Kiss", heads an exciting line-up for the final week of *Stand Up America*, the first festival of its kind to take place in a West End theatre. Vidale, who is fairly large and formidably funny, has been hailed in the United States as the black Roseanne Barr. She is joined by another Houston-bred stand-up, Bill Hicks, whose harsh and sarcastic style was fashioned with the group "Outlaws of Comedy", and by the infinitely more disident Fred Stoller, who creates a weird and entirely absorbing comic world. See them until Saturday at the Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 (071-734 1166).

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Modest maestro puts music first

THE story of Mariss Jansons is simple. He is the conductor that got away. If fine musicianship, a cultured mind and enormous respect from colleagues were all it took to reach the pinnacles of the musical profession, the 47-year-old Latvian would have been there a decade ago.

But does he have that ruthless streak? Does he rant and make orchestras tremble? Does he issue impossible, egotistical demands (called "star quality") that send record-company executives hopping like demented frogs? Does he connive in the game of musical politics when the major conducting jobs are being decided?

Certainly not. This is a musician who wants to take a six-month sabbatical in 1992 to "listen to other people's concerts and rehearsals". Press him for details and he will shyly admit that "my dream is to go to some Carlos Kleiber rehearsals". No shame in that: what scientist, in the 1940s, would have turned down a guided tour of Oppenheimer's laboratory? Except that Jansons is a conductor who came to the Barbican two years ago with the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, and produced some of the subtlest performances of Romantic music that London has heard in seasons.

He is an orchestral trainer who went to the second-division Oslo Philharmonic 11 years ago, and has since coaxed the Norwegians to standards that are the envy of more famous musical capitals. And not least, he was the almost unknown Soviet who gave the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra a period of true glory in the early 1980s: an impassioned cycle of Tchaikovsky symphonies, televised nightly, that suddenly alerted the musical public to an important new talent lurking, unexpectedly, in a Cardiff studio.

Subsequently, however, the big plums on the musical tree have eluded his grasp, perhaps because

Latvian conductor
Mariss Jansons, who
is coming to London
for two concerts,
interviewed by
Richard Morrison

he was more intent on nurturing the roots. The last 18 months have seen a flurry of major conducting appointments: in Los Angeles, London, New York, Berlin, Philadelphia, Chicago and Paris. If Jansons was the brooding type, he might have been the last of his kind, but he is not. He is a man of such positions with distinction. But somehow he was never in the right place at the right time.

The vital job of music director of the London Philharmonic, the South Bank's resident orchestra, was a typical instance. "Of course we wanted to consider Mariss," said one London Philharmonic insider. "The orchestra really admires him. But he has only conducted us once or twice. We could not be sure."

The pity is that Jansons is exactly the kind of resident music director, painstaking but inspirational, that any city should grab. "I believe a chief conductor should be the father of the orchestral family, and also a prime mover of a city's musical life." These are words that nearly every aspiring conductor utters, but in Oslo over the last 11 years, Jansons has matched them with deeds. He has premiered many new Norwegian works (though when questioned about their quality, he replies with a light laugh). He has launched a piano competition in the city, and now has plans for a music school, though this is founding on Scandinavian egalitarianism. "It is strange that I, coming from a communist

background, should want to develop the finest talent, while they — from the free enterprise world — should insist that all children receive the same education."

That is, of course, not strange at all. Jansons is a prize graduate of the most intensive music-education system in the world: the Soviet Union's. He was born in Riga, the son of a distinguished conductor, Arvid Jansons. His career path was probably mapped out when he was in the cradle, if not before: ten years in the local music school, then on to the Leningrad Conservatory. Soon afterwards he was given dates with the great orchestra his father once conducted, the Leningrad Philharmonic. He is now that orchestra's associate conductor.

He remains a modified enthusiast for this rigorous system. "The highly professional training given to very young children is one of our best achievements: it must continue. These children at 16 are capable of anything. Of course, I am not saying they are artists: that comes later."

"Yet now I can look back and see that this discipline is a little repressive of individuality: a totalitarian, dictatorial state in itself. In the West, by contrast, I think the artistic training is too easy-going. There is the feeling of 'you are at school, children, so what do you want to do today?' The ideal is the middle way: too much freedom for a gifted child and you produce a dilettante; too little, and the child develops personality complexes."

A conductor more free of personality complexes than Jansons would be hard to find, yet his music-making smacks of a detailed perfectionism. Whether that is inherent in his character, instilled by his education or induced by self-comparison with his father's achievement (he admits he can still "play back" mentally



Angles of approach: the painstaking but inspirational perfectionist, Mariss Jansons, at work

Arvid's interpretations) is difficult to say. He treats each phrase of a symphony with an expressive fluidity that reminds one of a jeweller separately polishing each individual jewel in a fabulous tiara. Some find the process mannered; but most sense that this detailed concern with surface is underpinned by a considerable emotional drive.

A Western observer can only speculate why, when the Leningrad Philharmonic chose its new principal conductor, it preferred the flashy charismatic Yuri Temirkanov to Jansons. There

was certainly bemusement in the music business. Jansons, of course, is the model of diplomacy. But his Latvian background might easily have counted against him in Soviet musical circles.

He is not an ardent separatist, though he believes that the West was hypocritical to encourage the Baltic states' struggle for freedom until the very moment when they could be independent, and then back off ("where is the principle?"). He does, however, insist on Latvian being spoken at home, even though his wife is Russian and his daughter has lived in

Leningrad all her life. Jansons himself speaks Latvian, Russian, German and English with ease.

He is not, however, a subscriber to the nationalist view of orchestral sound, and attributes the characteristic sound of Russian orchestras more to poor-quality wind instruments than to any inherited style. "Look at my Norwegians: they play with the fire of Sicilians. Every nation has temperament; just wake them up!"

Mariss Jansons conducts the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican (071-638 8891) on Sunday and Thursday next week.

DANCE

Deconstruction of the classics by the Royal maverick

Choreographer Ashley Page, whose latest work is premiered tomorrow, talks to Debra Craine

Watching an Ashley Page ballet is like assembling a jigsaw puzzle. The pieces are somehow familiar but the way they fit together is a constant surprise. In his case, the pieces are the standard steps of the classical vocabulary yet as assembled by the Royal Ballet's maverick choreographer, any resemblance to Petipa is strictly incidental. His fourth work for Covent Garden, *Bloodlines*, to be premiered tomorrow night, promises another kind of puzzle.

This desire to re-arrange the rules, to create his own logic, can throw his audience — as well as his dancers — off balance, while his extremes of taste and his perceived anarchy have led to the frequent tag of "the bad boy of ballet". But to classify him as such is to do him a disservice (and deny a highly individual talent at work) for the 34-year-old dance-maker is, at heart, a classicist, albeit an eccentric one.

He is also one of the few

classical dancers with his eye on what is going on outside the mainstream. Regularly in the audience watching the work of new-wave choreographers, Page has also made several contemporary works for Rambert, and has taken chances, as with his experimental works for Dance Umbrella.

"I know that everybody thinks I'm an anarchist, but it's more a case of literally wanting to break down the barrier that seems to be there," he says. "I'm interested in expanding not only what I think is possible choreographically but also the watcher's consciousness of how you can watch dance and how you can look at something that seems to be familiar, but then make it interesting and perhaps make it look unfamiliar."

"Some people do find it a problem — what they would describe as going against a move-

ment flow. Actually I consider it to be just redirecting it into another, just as logical, movement flow."

His own twist on the accepted logic is characterised by fragments of recognisable movements joined in unpredictable juxtapositions, sometimes delivered at exhilarating speed and often with wit and irony. "What I hope is that one of the results of all this is that by inviting people to look at classicism in a slightly different way, it re-awakens their interest in the language so that suddenly some very simple classroom step can be made into something quite fascinating in a different context."

"I don't consider that I abuse classical ballet. I don't make fun of it to send it up. I think there is room for wit and there's a danger of getting too serious about something and taking yourself too seriously."

He came from a serious ballet

background, having started lessons at the age of four before ending up at the Royal Ballet School, and, in 1976, entering the Covent Garden company.

Page might have continued along more traditional lines had he not seen a *South Bank Show* documentary about the work of Richard Alston. "I sat completely transfixed all the way through this. The most important thing about it for me was that it seemed to be much more to do with re-approaching classicism than anything we'd been doing in the Royal Ballet repertoire at the time. It had a very fresh kind of classical look to it and it said to me classicalism is alive and well and a lot can be done with it."

His first work for the Royal Ballet, appropriately titled *A Broken Set of Rules*, established his credentials as a new voice. *Pursuit*

was a bold look at structure, while last year's *Piano* (set to Beethoven's First Piano Concerto) was more like a conventional ballet. For his latest one-act piece, Page is experimenting, trying to be "dramatic without being narrative. It's the work I've been least confident about . . . I'm trying to do something which I'm not sure is possible. I'm trying to make a dramatic work that doesn't really have a story, but that has a line going through it, a sequence of events, and has characters that represent types of people rather than actual people."

Bloodlines focuses on a central figure guided by an enigmatic presence "who seems to be guiding him through these encounters, but the suggestion is that he might be a fragment of the central boy's imagination, that he might not really be there at all, or that he represents his fate." The ballet

also looks at the role of families in modern society. "There's the question of different ideas people have about what the family is. It seems that these people (in *Bloodlines*) are trying to hang on to an old order that is no longer applicable."

Page has worked in close collaboration with the designer, Deanna Petherbridge, and the composer Bruce Gilbert (of the rock group Wire), who has written an electronic score for tape. "I have tried to create something with a dramatic edge. Certainly the design has achieved amazing drama without being at all representative, although it has a strong sense of place. And the music is incredibly dramatic but totally abstract. I think that it is certainly going to be a very strong, visually striking, musically very striking work, but I can just hear people saying: 'But what's going on?'"

Bloodlines opens tomorrow at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066).

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Hot-shot Scots

Today's Scottish photographers are, according to Andrew Gibbon Williams, worthy heirs to a proud tradition

Three years ago an exhibition called *The Vigorous Imagination* at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art set the official seal of approval on the success of Scottish artists in the Eighties. Brutal, low-life and macabre subjects characterised much of the figurative painting and, since the most demonstrative artists were Glaswegian, visitors could have been forgiven for coming away with the impression that Glasgow was a cross between Al Capone's Chicago and Isherwood's Berlin.

Occasionally tempering what was plainly disingenuous posturing, however, was the more palatable national penchant for debunking the romantic myths of Scottish culture. Most adept and indulgent in this respect was the young photographer, Calum Colvin. He is blessed with enough flamboyant bad taste to imbue his fantasies with chic universal appeal; now based in London, the photographer is a West End gallery hot property.

Colvin resurfaces at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, vaunted as one of the leading lights of New Scottish Photography. The fussily composed stage sets which he photographs in vibrant colour on a large scale, are as cunningly contrived and droll as ever: before lurid loch views, kilted action-man dolls clamber up ladders and plummet with bagpipes. Scotland's favourite D.C. Thomson comic character, Oor Willie, provides ironic captions. Curiously intriguing as this

work is, however, it would appear from the work of the majority of the other 16 photographers included in this sensitively curated show that the vigorous Scottish photographic imagination has been functioning in a more contemplative way. Many continue to adhere to the time-hallowed technical conventions of black and white photography, heightening the impact of an image by sharpness of focus and the judicious manipulation of chiaroscuro.

Owen Logan, for example, takes as his subjects the culturally disenfranchised: a Moroccan in traditional djellaba gazes out from beneath a Mickey Mouse roundabout, Sikh girls wearing tartan dresses sip from beakers, while seated in a front room. The images exude a poignant calm which depends upon the trust established between the photographer and the photographed.

John Taylor takes an equally straightforward approach but his results are gently sardonic rather than sad. Over a four-year period Taylor documented his sister's ordinary north London home. In one picture, Michelangelo's David in miniature (the trashy Florentine tourist trophy par excellence) is seen against fake-pebble wall covering, while in another, a gnarled apple, empty toothpaste tube and buckled Coke can comprise a still life which, in crisp close-up, is as socially revealing as it is visually riveting.

The non-figurative photographs are no less intense.

Poignant calm: Owen Logan's "Scottish Sikhs"

Pradip Maide's platinum prints are the most beguiling — leaves and mosquitoes are placed with spare, oriental taste on textured, geometric man-made forms. David Williams, best known for his documentation of an Edinburgh girls' school has produced a series of compelling, sombre, quasi-abstract images called "Ecstasies".

In spite of its billing, *New Scottish Photography* takes a refreshingly catholic view of what Scottish photography really is and includes several photographers who, though neither Scottish by birth nor training, have played their part in what amounts to a mini-renaissance. This was actively engendered by a group of talented, motivated individuals, foremost among them the late Murray Johnston, whose concept this present exhibition was.

Thanks to Johnston and his colleagues, Scotland today boasts three degree courses in photography, a number of galleries specialising in exhibiting it and a cultural climate in which photographers see themselves as creative artists

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"The joint never stops jumping!"

Death and the King's Horseman Royal Exchange, Manchester

their inhabitants together in a macabre, circular narrative. Some of his themes are reminiscent of the horror genre, such as the supernatural ties which unite Scotland's Celtic past and Canada's present. Lepage makes these ties explicit by incorporating Scottish actors into his *Théâtre Repère* company. As part of an international cast, these actors create Scottish characters, from the past to the present. The play is staged in a pool of black water. Stacks of books with leopards' spots reflect in the pool, like some Manabtan. Two fractured lives draw together in a smart New York restaurant under a Delacroix portrait of George Sand which is cut from one which should include Chopin. Each scene is like a carefully crafted sculpture underpinned by Michel Gosselin's haunting music.

staged in a pool of black water. Stacks of books with luminous spines reflected in the pool become Manhattan. Two fractured lives draw together in a smart New York restaurant under a Delacroix portrait of George Sand which is cut from one which should include Chopin. Each scene is like a carefully crafted sculptural underpinning by Michel Gosselin's haunting music.

At times, though, *Tectonic Plates* still feels incomplete. However, even if there is nothing which, as yet, matches up to the invention of Lepage's *Dragon Trilogy*, this is a richly rewarding evening in the theatre.

The culmination of the *Tectonic Plates* project will be in Barcelona in 1992. But who knows what man or geology will do before then. It is not often that theatre offers the chance to watch from the cosmos as continents collide, and this one should not be missed.

AN SELDAR CAMERON

stage, which is where INXS is said to be in its element, the likes of "Suicide Blonde" and "Lately" from *X*, chunter along in a mood and tempo not dissimilar from "Guns in the Sky" or "Devil Inside", from *Kick*. At one point, it did drop promisingly into "War", Edwin Starr's venerable Motown hit, but moved swiftly on. Towards the end of the show, "New Sensation" put into words what INXS is not equipped to provide. Fortunately for the band, a lot of people like it that way.

JASPER REES

can drama-documentary started two years before the Lockerbie tragedy of two Decembers ago, and suggested that Pan Am's most-vaunted security alert was understaffed and underfunded, and symbolically equipped with dummy rifles and untrained tracker-dogs.

Timothy West, as the security captain caught between the Americans with unmetables and the terrorists in pyjamas with Semtex, was able, in his own words, only to fight against the wind.

By the time security had been tightened up, Pan Am had stopped charging its passengers a \$5 security surcharge, and it was officially declared by the United States government that what had happened at Lockerbie was "pre-ventable". Except, of course, that it was not prevented at the time.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

[illegible][illegible]

BRITISH VENUES (See review, left.)
Liberty Arena, Empire Way, Wembley,
 Wexham (081-900 1234), 7.30pm.

THE LIES FROM A MARRIAGE: After a
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 either an absorbing evening,
 or a sham's. Charing Cross Road, London
 (071-987 1116), 8pm.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

BBC 1

6.00 Ceebox
8.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Meade. Includes a special report on the 1990 World Cup.
9.50 Daytime UK presented by Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spiers in Birmingham and Adrian Mills in Manchester.
9.00 News, regional news and weather.
9.05 Breakfast News, quiz show presented by Andy Craig. 9.25 Dish of the Day. Helpful cooking tips from Rosemary Moon. 9.30 People Today. Includes an opportunity to phone the television doctor.
10.00 News, regional news and weather.
10.05 Children's BBC introduced by Simon Pegg. Includes *Playdays* (r) 10.25. *Pling*, cartoon adventures of a clumsy penguin. 10.35 *People Today*. Includes *UK Tomorrow* which looks at youthful initiatives to improve the environment.
11.00 News, regional news and weather.
11.05 Kitchen, Robert Kiley-Silk and his studio audience. 11.45 *Before Noon*. Viewers' phone calls and today's star guest.
12.00 News, regional news and weather.
12.05 Afternoon, happy memories from Newcastle. *Cliff* (r) 12.15. *Wendy Gibson* invite you to recall your favourite moments. 12.20 *Scene Today* presented by Judi Spiers and Alan Titchmarsh. 12.55 Regional news and weather.
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather.
1.30 Neighbours, (Ceebox) 1.50 *Going for Gold*, quiz hosted by Henry Kelly.
2.15 Snooker, David Vine introduces action from the quarter-finals of the *Storm* UK championship.

3.05 Primetime, Magazine for older viewers presented by David Jacobs and Sheila McLennan. Ernie Wise talks about life at 65, and there is advice about making a will. 3.45 *Cartoon*.
3.50 Animal Album. The guest artist David Shepherd. 4.05 *Quick Chat* Show with Keith Harris. 4.20 *Fantastic Max*, cartoon. 4.35 *Heartbeat*. Tony Hart and Alison Miller look at art with an inventive eye. (Ceebox).
5.00 Newsround 5.10 *Byker Grove*. Drama series set on Tyneside. (Ceebox).
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceebox). Northern Ireland: *Sportsworld* 5.40 *Inside Ulster*.
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather.
6.30 Regional News Magazine. Northern Ireland: *Neighbours*.
7.00 Wogan. Among the guests is Jack Charlton, manager of the Republic of Ireland football team.
7.30 Trivial Pursuit. Rory McGrath hosts the quiz show based on the successful board game.
8.00 The Trials of Life: Friends and Rivals. Sir David Attenborough continues his series on the behaviour of the animal world with a look at the organisation of social structures within animal communities. For many animals it makes sense to live in groups, but quarrels over food, nesting places and mates are inevitable and it helps if disputes can be settled with the minimum waste of time and energy. Among examples of community spirit are sister ants working for the good of the queen, and monkey communities with a hierarchy which ensures that sensible individuals do not get ideas above their station. (Ceebox).
8.50 Points of View. Anne Robinson applies her usual gloss to viewers' comments on television programmes.

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. Weather.
9.30 Blackadder Goes Forth. Another episode from the most recent, and probably the best, *Blackadder* series, written by Richard Curtis and Ben Elton and set in the trenches of the first world war. News reaches General Blithew (Stephen Fry) that revolution has swept across Russia. What better way of boosting morale than a concert party? And since the show is later to transfer to London, who better to stage the event than Captain Edmund Blackadder (Rowan Atkinson)? (r). (Ceebox).
10.00 Sportnight introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is: Snooker. The latest action from the quarter-finals of the *Storm* UK Championships at the Guild Hall, Preston; European Football. Coverage of tonight's third-round UEFA Cup tie, first leg. The commentators are John Motson and Barry Davies; Motor Sport. *Sportnight* talks to the winner of the *Lombard RAC Rally* which finished this evening in Harrogate, and looks back at the four days of racing. Competition: Under One Flag. The unification of Germany will have profound consequences in many areas of sport. Gerald Sinstadt gazes into the crystal ball.
11.30 Film: Cuckoo's Nest. Dog's dinner of a horror film, based on a Stephen King story, with an unimpeachable and decidedly curdled Sir Bernard's dog, purported to be a savage killer after being bitten by a mad dog. With Dee Wallace and Christopher Stone. Directed by Lewis Teague. Northern Ireland: *Blackadder Goes Forth*. 12.00 *Cloze*.
1.00am Weather.

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Keynotes. Musical quiz hosted by Alistair Dival. 9.55 *Thames News* and weather.
10.00 The Time ... The Place ... Mike Scott shares a discussion on post-natal depression.
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley.
12.05 Allsorts 12.25 *Home and Away*. Australian soap 12.55 *Thames News* and weather.
1.00 News on One with John Suchet.
1.20 Yan Can Cook. Master chef Martin Yan with recipes involving noodles. 1.50 *A Country Practice*.
2.20 Take the High Road. Drama series set in a Highland village. 2.50 *Talkback*. Andrew O'Connor hosts the gift of the gab game show. 3.15 *News* headlines. 3.20 *Thames* headlines. 3.25 *The Young Doctors*. Australian soap set in a large city hospital where medical matters are overshadowed by personal drama. 3.55 *Neills the Elephant*. Cartoon about a friendly elephant. 4.00 *Hot Dog*. 4.15 *Mike & Angelo*. Drama series starring Mait Wright and Tim Whitnall. 4.40 *Roll's Caravan Club*. Roll Harris meets Oscar-winning cartoon maker John Lasseter in California.
5.10 Blockbusters. Quiz game for teenagers hosted by Bob Holmes.
5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong.
5.55 Thames Help.



Charitable works: Su-Lin Looi (8.00pm)

9.00 Medics. There are not enough hours in the day for medical student Anna who is trying to fit her studies around her activities for *Charity Week* at the hospital. *Starring* Su-Lin Looi.
10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Sandy Galt. Weather. 10.30 *Thames News* and weather.
10.40 Aids Update 90. Sinead O'Connor looks at the difficulties facing women and children with the Aids virus and asks what can be done to help them. (Ceebox).

10.50 Midweek Sport Special. Nick Owen presents the best of the action from tonight's matches in the fourth round of the Rumbelows league cup. The draw for the fifth round takes place live in the studio.
11.50 In the Heat of the Night. Sister. Sister. The first of a new series of the drama about the alliance between a black policeman and his white counterpart in the American Deep South. The true relationship between two sisters comes to light when Virgil and Gillespie investigate a murder case. *Starring* Carroll O'Connor and Howard Rollins.
12.40am Film: Night of Terror (1972). Run-of-the-mill television drama about an artist (Donna Mills) who witnesses a murder and is stalked by the killer (Chuck Connors). With Martin Balsam. Directed by Jeannot Szwarc.
2.00 World of Chess. Raymond Keene, chess correspondent of *The Times*, presents an assessment of the latest news from the world championship and the Chess Olympiad. Followed by *News headlines*.
2.15 Videofashion. A look at the latest in men's fashion.
2.45 America's Top Ten.
3.10 Quiz Night. Pub and club quiz.
3.40 Three's Company. American sitcom.
4.10 Just Champion. Profiles of European javelin champion Steve Backley and world champion *My Way*.
4.40 Fifty Years On. *Newsweek* clips from November 1940 take us back for a look at life in Britain during the early days of the second world war.
5.00 ITN Morning News with Brenda Rowe. Ends at 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Art of Landscape. Beautiful natural images accompanied by soothing music.
6.20 Business Daily.
6.50 The Channel Four Daily.
9.25 Schools.
12.00 The Parliament Programme.
12.20 Business Daily.
1.00 Sesame Street.
2.00 Pilgrimages. Author and journalist Christopher Martin, who was ordained in his forties, visits Turkey to see if the best of Christianity has been absorbed into Islam. (Teletext).
2.30 Film: Rulers of the Sea (1939, b/w). Wall-to-wall story of the struggle between a seafarer and a knight. The programme is presented by Graham's biographer, the *Sunday Times* columnist Robert Ham, and includes contributions from Lord Whitelaw and John Biffen, the press secretaries of Harold Wilson and Edward Heath and political journalists who have had the Ingham treatment.
4.15 The White Mouse. Cartoon.
4.30 Fifteen-to-One.
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Extrovert presenter Oprah Winfrey is joined by women who have tried to catch their men with other women, and a private investigator who gives advice on how to catch a cheating partner.
5.50 Colour Box/Train of Thought. Analysis of two films as part of *Four-Matrons UK*.
6.00 The Wonder Years. Emmy Award-winning sitcom which looks at life in the 'Swinging Sixties' through the eyes of 13-year-old Kevin Arnold (Fred Savage) (r).
6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. Tonight's guests are former footballers George Best and Denis Law and entertainer Anthony Newley.
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zainab Qadwi.
7.50 Party Political. Comment from a Liberal party politician. Followed by *Weather*.

8.00 Brookside. (Teletext)

8.30 Dismissals.
CHOICE: As Mrs Thatcher's premiership comes to its end, *Dismissals* presents a profile of her controversial press secretary, Bernard Ingham, who is perhaps heading for a peerage or a knighthood. In public Ingham was easily recognizable as the burly figure who was always at her side but condemned to take a non-speaking part. Behind the scenes he played an essential role in promoting the Thatcherite cause and leading lobby journalists with bi-traits that would hasten the downfall of Cabinet colleagues who had fallen out of favour. Some say that no Downing Street press spokesman had wielded such power. The programme is presented by Ingham's biographer, the *Sunday Times* columnist Robert Ham, and includes contributions from Lord Whitelaw and John Biffen, the press secretaries of Harold Wilson and Edward Heath and political journalists who have had the Ingham treatment.



Old man out: Jean-Michel Basquiat (8.15pm)

8.15 Without Walls: Shooting Star.
CHOICE: A profile of the American painter Jean-Michel Basquiat, a life destroyed by heroin addiction at the age of 28. Geoff Dorkin's film offers a threefold analysis, placing Basquiat in the tradition of suffering artists who have destroyed themselves, of pop stars unable to survive the excesses of fame and of black artists destroyed by racism. Friends of Basquiat, filmed in black and white as if to distance them from footage of the subject and his work, provide plausible evidence for all three versions. He did find celebrity difficult to handle and suffered by being an odd man out in an art world dominated by whites. The film is less sure in trying to assess Basquiat's art, content to rely on critics who labelled him an exotic and a primitive and to record his current place in the market, where a single canvas can fetch half a million dollars.

10.15 The Sync - Next. Another film from the *Four-Matrons UK* stable.
10.20 Sticky Moments on Tour with Julian Kelly. More opportunities for ordinary people to lose every shred of dignity.
11.00 Sex Talk: Do Women Want Love and Men Want Sex? Eight guests, aged mainly between 16 and 30, discuss sex with presenter Mark Chasse.
11.55 She-Play: Bathing Elizabeth. Last in a series of short plays by women writers. Two sisters (Nerys Hughes and Kate Garfield) have moved from rural Wales to live in a tower block in London and now have to face the fact that one of them is dying. Written by Marty Cruikshank.
12.00am Sid Caesar's Show of Shows (b/w). Archive comedy from American wisecracker Sid Caesar.
12.35 Tempting Fats. Animation.
12.45 Rock Story After Midnight. *Specials*. Fleetwood Mac talk about their music.
1.30 Movie Hill Films. Two more animations from the *Four-Matrons UK* season.
1.45 Impo-Visions 2. Stuart Gordon on video with video artist Brian Johnson. Ends at 1.50.

BBC 2

8.00 News
9.15 Westminster. A round-up of parliamentary business from both Houses.
9.00 Daytime on Two begins with France and the French in the 1915 *Series* for people in their fifties. 10.15 *Sylvester McCoy* plays the greatest game show in the galaxy. 10.40 *House building in Scotland* 11.35 *Assessment advice* for teachers.
1.40 Consenting men and landscapes.
2.00 News and weather followed by *You and Me* (r) 2.15 *The Gun*. A look at how inventors contributed to the development of the firearm in the 19th century (r) 2.30 *A Day in the Life* of a lecturer and mechanical engineer Dr Ann Dowling (r) 2.35 *Courtesy Film*. John Craven discovers that the great storm of 1987 which felled 15 million trees was not a complete disaster (r).
3.00 News and weather followed by *Westminster Live*. Coverage of Parliament. 3.50 *News*, regional news and weather.
4.00 Catchword. Word quiz.
4.30 Behind the Headlines. Beverly Anderson talks to rock performers and music journalists about the way women are represented in pop and why there are so few women of power in the industry.
5.00 Film 5.10 *Barry Norman*. *Reviews of The Shallow End and Come See the Paradise* (r).
5.30 Nature: Medfly Madness (r). (Ceebox).
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. Patrick Stewart heads the new crew of the popular spaceship still boldly going where no person has gone before. (Ceebox).

6.45 DEF II: Dance Energy Update. Music, the video vote and DJ of the week. Followed by *Autobiography of the USA*. An animated view of American history. 6.55 *Rough Guide to Careers*. Raj Chandra and Lindsey MacRae check out green careers - from organic farming to garden design. 7.35 *Rapido*. Antoine de Caunes rattles off another quick-fire rock music show.
8.05 Prisoners of Conscience. Actress Janet Suzman highlights the plight of people jailed for their beliefs.



Freedom-fighter: Ho Chi Minh (8.10pm)

8.10 Timewatch: One of the Reasons Why.
CHOICE: Charles Wheeler narrates an lucid and absorbing piece of diplomatic history which shows how events in French Indo-China during and just after the second world war formed an ironic prelude to the later conflict over Vietnam. In particular, it explores the little remembered British involvement and suggests that by trying to shore up French colonialism the Attlee government may have contributed to the later tragedy. The Japanese occupation of Indo-China

found Britain and the anti-imperialist United States on opposing sides. The Americans wanted the Vietnamese to govern themselves and backed the independence movement led by Ho Chi Minh. The British, supported by all people, the troops of the recent Japanese empire, paved the way for France to regain control. Television history is usually stronger on images than ideas. Richard Coles's film shows that it is possible to promote the argument about the pictures. *Classic black humour* set in an army hospital during the Korean war. Can Hawkeye go a whole day without cracking a joke? *Starring* Alan Alda and Mike Farrell (r).
9.25 Die Kinder: Hidden Agenda. Episode three of the Paula Milne's watchable thriller starring Miranda Richardson as Sidonie, a mother searching for her two young children after their abduction by their German father. Sidonie has hired private detective Lomax (Frederic Forrest) and to avoid suspicion the couple are posing as man and wife, a situation not to Sidonie's liking. (Ceebox).
10.25 Film: Richard Coles's film. A personal view of a current issue.
10.30 Newswatch. Analysis of the day's events with Jeremy Paxman.
11.15 The Late Show. East German singer and satirist Wolf Biermann was exiled in 1977 for his vitriolic attacks on President Honecker. He talks to playwright Nigel Kneale about the crumbling of the Berlin Wall.
11.55 Weather.
12.00 Prisoners of Conscience. Janet Suzman with the second of tonight's two portraits.
12.05am Behind the Headlines. See 4.30. Ends at 12.40.

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
5.00am International Business Report.
6.00 News 6.00 *The DJ* 6.00 *Blue Planet*.
7.00 Pot Point 10.00 *News* 10.30 *News*.
11.00 The Young Doctors 11.30 *Sty* by Day 12.00 *Thames*.
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Walker produces £27m for bond issue

GEORGE Walker, chairman of the Brent Walker Leisure and Property Group, has produced the £27 million he owes under the company's £103 million rescue convertible bonds issue.

But another £20 million of the issue was not received by the deadline yesterday.

One of the five other places under the issue has therefore failed to come forward with the necessary money. Although advisers to the group said they did not know which it is thought to be Citicorp, a little-known Bahamas investment trust.

Brent Walker now has to find the missing £20 million, or at least a minimum of £16 million, by midnight on Friday or find itself in default of its recently renegotiated financing arrangements with its banks.

Allied up 10%

Half-time profits at Allied-Lyons rose 10 per cent to £286 million, boosted by first-time contributions from James Burroughs, the Beefeater gin group and Dunkin' Donuts, the American fast-food chain. Earnings per share rose 3.6 per cent to 22.8p. The interim dividend rises 11 per cent to 6.27p.

Tempos, page 31

Property quote

German City Estates, a £65 million Dutch property company managed by the former London & Edinburgh Trust, will be quoted on the Amsterdam stock exchange from Friday as a way for British and other foreign investors to buy into the German property market. The company was started in June via a placing among City and continental institutions.

Comment, page 31

Northern rise

Pre-tax profits at Northern Foods increased by 18 per cent to £47.4 million in the six months to end-September. The dividend is raised by 14 per cent to 6p.

Tempos, page 31

Argyll ahead

Argyll, the supermarket group that owns Sainsbury, made pre-tax profits of £143 million in the six months to October 13, an increase of 28 per cent. The dividend is up 16 per cent to 2.85p.

Tempos, page 31

THE POUND

US dollar

1.9745 (+0.0090)

German mark

2.9213 (-0.0116)

Exchange index

94.5 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

1699.7 (+1.1)

FT-SE 100

2159.5 (+7.6)

New York Dow Jones

2540.10 (+6.93)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

23623.51 (-139.35)

Closing Prices ... Page 36

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%

3-month interbank 12 1/2%-13 1/2%

3-month eligible bills 12 1/2%-12 3/4%

US Prime Rate 10%

Federal Funds 7 1/8%

3-month Treasury 7.01-7.00%

30-year bonds 10 1/2%-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London:

New York:

£: \$1.9745

£: DM1.4800

£: DM2.9213

£: Sfr1.2598

£: FF9.8577

£: FF4.8225

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Deadly advance of a two-dollar pound

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Our new man at No 10 needs the blessing of all of us, for he takes over an economy in a recession which seems to get deeper every day. But Mr Major is not going to give much reassurance to possibly the most influential industrialist in the country, Sir Denis Henderson, the chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries. There were probably no wavering members of parliament at the meeting of the Society of Business Economists yesterday morning to hear Sir Denis' opening speech. If there had been, the Major vote would probably have gone down.

Sir Denis, with annual sales of £13 billion throughout the world, said that from a practical point of view, he was not much reassured by the chancellor's autumn statement description of economic prospects for 1991. ICI is much more dependent than the chancellor admitted to being a couple of weeks ago. From the day-by-day anecdotal evidence passing through Wapping, it is easier to believe in Henderson's 18 months than in Major's short and shallow view of the recession.

Meanwhile, not far away from

economists in session, one of their number was seeking a little more revenge for the toppling of his benefactor. Professor Sir Alan Walters told his audience that Britain faced a deeper recession than most because of the rate at which this country entered the exchange-rate mechanism. He reckons that a realignment to DM2.60 from the entry of DM2.95 would be more appropriate for industry, and there are few in industry that would disagree that the professor's rate would be more comfortable.

That entry rate of DM2.95 was not designed, however, for comfort but for pain. The government, the City and even large sections of industry are hopeful that the tough rate will inflict "discipline" on wage settlements, forcing them below the going rate of inflation through fear of mounting unemployment. Companies themselves have been unable to stand up to RPI-plus wage demands, and the

theory is that the prospect of lost markets and lost jobs, as outlined by Major in his Mansion House speech, will add power to the elbows of corporate negotiators. As the recession gathers depth, that seems increasingly likely. Economists are already predicting substantial industrial destocking in the early part of next year, and leaving your workforce striking outside the factory gates is an effective way of reducing production while retaining the moral high ground. It remains to be seen which company management will bite the RPI first.

In the meantime, the rate at which Britain entered ERM has found a powerful partner in the dollar rate, which is now within

an ace or two of the two-dollar pound. The weakness of the American economy, coupled with the sagging of the dollar, will bring additional problems to the door of British industry, because in the Eighties, America learned how to export. Again, anecdotal evidence is piling up that American products are increasingly landing in Europe. This is all very well if it is purely opportunistic exporting that will melt away when the American electoral cycle demands a stimulus to the economy. But if, as seems equally if not more likely, corporate America acquires a taste for exporting, more nails are likely to be hammered into Britain's industrial coffin. High interest rates and a high

exchange rate knocked the stuffing out of manufacturing industry a decade ago. There is little to stop history repeating itself.

For electoral reasons, the new man will no doubt make some noise about reforming the poll tax but the real imperative must be to preserve the industry and commercial base of this country. The finance industries, given a reasonably level European playing field, can look after themselves. They live by their wits rather than their work, and cerebral inventiveness is more important than capital investment. The growth of financial services in the Eighties will not easily be given up in the Nineties, even though it may be part of the "fluff" of the second half of the last decade about which Henderson spoke.

That said, Henderson is right with his demand that good growth in the Nineties will have to be based on solid industrial

substance, and while it is no part of a good European government's role to featherbed its own industry, it will be in everyone's interest to help rather than hinder. Interest rates need to come down on a global basis, but there is no reason why this country should lag rather than lead. If this weakens sterling and drives it down to the ERM basement, so be it. At least that will make imports more expensive, and give our suffering captains a bit of a leg up in international markets. As Walters pointed out, a rise in interest rates to maintain the present position of sterling would bring the economy into even deeper recession.

But this country needs no more retail knights nor wild consumer booms, and interest rate cuts must be staged so as not to fuel a house price explosion which would put fools gold into the pockets of mortgage payers. Most of all, though, the new prime minister will do his greatest service to industry if he shows as much concern for those who make things as he does for those who make money.

FOR an executive chairman whose company had just reported pre-tax losses of more than £165 million Godfrey Bradman, of Rosehaugh, was in a relaxed mood.

A two-week campaign of well-informed press comment had done its job. Rosehaugh's shares, primed for bad news, reacted with commendable initial fortitude to losses the size of which the property sector was hard pressed to recall ever having seen.

Further consideration saw the shares slide 7p to 101p, as the sheer magnitude of the losses began to sink in. By comparison, the passed dividend appeared incidental.

Ian Rowberry, a main board director, last month became the first boardroom casualty of Rosehaugh's corporate restructuring. Given these losses it would not be surprising if others decided it might be time to follow his lead, or had it decided for them.

Mr Bradman, however, will not be leading any boardroom exodus. He believes the programme of rationalisation and disposals that followed February's one-for-one rescue rights issue is the right one. "I think the policy we have embarked upon is the right one. We have made very significant progress in reorganising the group. All the shareholders we have discussed it with have been totally supportive."

To outsiders, Rosehaugh's huge problems appear a mystery. The Broadgate office complex near London's Liverpool Street station, which it developed with Stanhope Properties, its erstwhile partner, is its flagship.

Along with the adjoining Finsbury Avenue buildings, Broadgate is one of the undoubted successes of the Eighties' development boom. Its offices fairly bulge with top notch tenants, while its magnificent public spaces have become de rigueur for television producers hoping to capture the modern City of London.

The only problem is that Broadgate does not make money. Its massive rent roll falls well short of covering an even more massive interest charge. The same goes for

Rosehaugh house tumbles into the red



Right policy: Godfrey Bradman at helm of changes

Rosehaugh-Stanhope Developments, its owner, which in the year to end-June made a pre-tax loss of £41 million. To get round this very forecastable cash-flow deficit, Rosehaugh weaved an elaborate web of property trading subsidiaries created to build and sell all types of property, from Docklands flats to regional shopping malls. Indeed anything that would make profits that would allow Rosehaugh to hold its lovingly developed City buildings, whose steadily rising value would drive Rosehaugh's asset value ever higher.

when these developer-trader subsidiaries made money. But when the profits dried up, this elaborate structure quickly became a liability - in certain subsidiaries big liabilities.

Mr Bradman is right when he says the company has made progress since the February rights issue. In the year to end-June, Rosehaugh sold £128 million of property, into a market that deteriorated as the year went on. Since the year end a further £77 million worth has been sold, including Rosehaugh Heritage that was sold to Charwell Land, a Kingfisher subsidiary.

But as the losses show the

experience is proving painful. "At the time of the rights issue we realised that the market was bad. But from the spring the market got worse."

Values at Broadgate and Finsbury Avenue might be riding out the storm. Indeed their unchanged value, plus first-time contributions from two recently completed phases of Broadgate ensured Rosehaugh's net assets were virtually unchanged at £475 million, although net assets per share fell from 477p to 373p.

Elsewhere values tumbled, as yields rose. "As far as the more routine trading stock goes, some of the yields have gone from 7 per cent to 9 per cent, and even more," said Mr Bradman, although he says the company has not dumped properties on the market.

However, he believes a £99 million write down brings the value of Rosehaugh's remaining trading stock bang up to date with the still lamentable state of the property market.

Net borrowings have fallen from the pre-rights level of £410 million to £350 million. More encouragingly, as a result of the disposals the money needed to finish the group's remaining developments has fallen to £30 million.

Mr Bradman believes Rosehaugh will not be the last large property company to report enormous provisions. Others, however, will have the option of taking such provisions through the balance sheet, instead of the revenue account as Rosehaugh has had to.

Although Rosehaugh's residential developments should start to benefit from an improving housing market next year, the outlook for commercial property is far from rosy.

It is certainly far too soon to say that Rosehaugh has turned the corner, in spite of a level of provision that must make some improvement a certainty next time round. What the company's influential shareholders have to decide is whether the management responsible for this level of losses is the right management to take Rosehaugh forward through this still far from certain future.

MATTHEW BOND

O&Y cloud over Allied-Lyons

TEMPUS

IN ONE of those bizarre reactions that make captains of industry tear their hair out, Allied-Lyons shares were marked down after worthy half-time profits. The fall had little to do with the figures. Instead, dealers turned their thoughts to a sizeable block of convertible stock owned by Olympia & York, the Canadian developer of Canary Wharf.

O&Y's holding is convertible from January 1 into more than 9 per cent of Allied's equity, and dealers chose to speculate that the Canadian group may be a seller to help fund its Docklands project. Allied reassured analysts of its belief that O&Y would not act in a way which would damage either the stock market or its relationship with the company.

But with conversion so close, dealers will regard the convertible as a potential cloud over Allied shares.

Half-time profits, up 10 per cent to £286 million, owed a little to the acquisition of Dunkin' Donuts, the American food chain. James Burroughs, the Beebeater Gin group bought from Whitbread last year, performed well, but the maiden contribution was eclipsed by interest charges.

The two newcomers accounted for perhaps £25 million of the £54 million advance in trading profits, suggesting that trading profits in the rest of the group rose only 9 per cent or so. The purchases and higher interest

rates forced financing costs 50 per cent up to £111 million. The interim dividend rose 11 per cent to 6.27p a share.

Basic earnings per share, 3.6 per cent up at 22.8p, showed the effect of a tax charge up from 28 per cent to 30 per cent due to higher overseas profits. This trend has further to go, with tax next year up perhaps another 3 percentage points, prompting some analysts to deride the shares from buy to hold. But the shares, down 15p at 483p, sell for about 11 times fully-diluted earnings and are the classic defensive investment.

Argyll

ARGYLL, the supermarket group that owns Safeway, reinforced the message already received from Sainsbury and Tesco, that Britain's food retailers are in good shape and in a strong position to cope with cost inflation.

Argyll made pre-tax profits of £143 million in the six months to October 13, an increase of 28 per cent. Sales rose 16 per cent to £2.47 billion and earnings per share from 8.6p to 10.6p. The dividend is up 16 per cent at 2.83p.

Safeway now accounts for 72 per cent of the group's sales and operating profits for the chain rose 48 per cent to £102.5 million.

Operating margins at Safeway rose 0.8 per cent to 6 per cent in the first half and are set to end the financial year at about 6.8 per cent. Like-for-like sales growth at Safeway is running at 9 per cent, 1 per cent ahead of inflation.

Safeway is now in a strong position to cut costs, improve productivity and increase margins. Argyll, which is already experimenting in Europe, is planning at least one big acquisition in the next three years.

Argyll has gearing of only 16 per cent and Andy Brown, a Morgan Stanley analyst, has upgraded his full-year forecast from £280 million to £290 million which puts the shares, at 242p, on a p/e ratio of 11.2.

In common with Sainsbury and Tesco, Argyll's shares have outperformed the market in recent months but, with Argyll's earnings set to grow while the market as a whole continues to fall, they are not expensive and are worth buying.

Northern Foods

ASIDE from a minor upset over clungfilm the nation's digestion has been relatively untroubled over the past few months, and Northern Foods has reaped the benefit.

Last time the company reported, chicken, cheese, eggs and beef were under attack.

The rebound from the hysteria is one of the factors behind better than expected interim pre-tax profits, up from £40.3 million to £47.4 million to end-September. Northern also saw a £2 million upswing from the effects of low pork prices last time and the benefits of stripping out some £20 million of turnover from less profitable products.

Operating margins were ahead from 7.7 per cent to 8.5 per cent. Northern's clear defensive qualities are coming to the fore as the recession bites - witness the claim in Argyll Group's figures yesterday that as people eat out less, they eat in better. Argyll's Safeway chain is one of Northern's four big customers, which together account for a third of its sales.

Despite plans to continue capital spending and look carefully at acquisitions, Northern is confident its strong cash flow will reduce gearing further from its current modest level of about 14 per cent by the financial year end. Little surprise that the shares, up 3p to 353p, are at the top end of their trading range.

With most analysts increasing profit forecasts to about £104 million pre-tax, they change hands on about 10.5 times' future earnings and yield a prospective 5.4 per cent. Fair value, but the shares have outperformed the sector and remain a strong long-term hold.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Shatalin's ad-venture

PROFESSOR Stanislav Shatalin, adviser to President Gorbachev and author of the radical "Shatalin Plan", arrives in Britain next week to inform the Square Mile of his country's prospects. He will deliver the second European Enterprise Lecture on Tuesday, sponsored by 3i and the Cranfield European Enterprise Centre. While in Britain, he plans to visit the International Stock Exchange and will also meet teams from Warburg and the Bank of England. Shatalin, who recently suffered a heart attack, is due to meet the new prime minister on Friday before flying home. "This is one of his first trips outside the USSR," says Bob Woodward, a director of 3i, who arranged the visit. "The Soviet Union is interested in a venture capital organisation like 3i as a model for long-term development." The Shatalin plan, which has divided Soviet politicians, many of whom prefer a more cautious proposal from Nikolai Ryzhkov, the prime minister, proposes to put the Soviet economy on the road to capitalism in 500 days and sets out a programme of extensive privatisation.

GRAFFITO on an advertising hoarding in Piccadilly: "One good turn often gets all the bedclothes."

Not excelling QANTAS, the Australian airline, which has embarked on a

glossy television and newspaper advertising campaign to lure travellers, found itself in something of a predicament yesterday. For passengers arriving at Heathrow on Monday evening to catch flight QF10, due to depart at 9.45pm, were told to expect a delay. Unfortunately for the airline, the passenger list included John Elliott, recently deposed head of the Elders IXL brewing conglomerate, who was spotted in the first class lounge with his wife, chain-smoking cigarettes and doing his best to stay calm. The flight was finally cancelled at 12.15am, and the weary travellers were told they would be accommodated overnight. On opening their complimentary newspapers the next morning, they were less than pleased to see a full page colour advertisement taken by Qantas and including the immortal line: "Only service of the highest standard can effectively conquer time."



THE following advertisement appeared in The Manly Daily, published in Sydney: "Best wishes on your birthday. Love from your friend, lover, chef, nurse, cleaner, banker, seamstress, gardener, entertainer, social secretary, poet, typist, apprentice, actor, telephonist, book-keeper, business partner, company secretary, writer, auditor, chauffeur, slave-driver, confidante, hostess, debtor, personnel officer and wife, Kaye."

Trading up

THE City does not always warm to newcomers. But it clearly has a soft spot for John Madejski, the millionaire publisher, who took his first stake in a public company last week. Madejski, chairman of Hurst Publishing which includes Thames Valley Auto Trader in its stable, paid £1 million in cash for 10.5 per cent stake in Goodhead Group, the printing, free newspaper and design services company. The share price gained 10p on the news. "I am now the second largest shareholder in the company," says Madejski, who has been friends with Colin Rosser, Goodhead's chairman, for 14 years. "Colin prints a lot of my titles and the shares were undervalued." Madejski, who has enjoyed much success with Auto Trader and its related titles, clearly has an eye for his work. For his Berkshire home includes space for two Jaguars and two Ferraris, a Testarossa and a 328 GT, both fiery red, and worth £180,000 between them.

FROM a Surrey insurance broker's circular: "Man is the only creature who spends two-thirds of his lifetime saving up for old age and the last third denying that it has arrived."

Heavy order

ONE of the big winners to emerge from the Channel Tunnel contract is Blue Circle Cement, which is supplying most of the cement on the British side of the project. The order for 500,000 tonnes over a five-year period is the biggest since the war to be supplied to a single construction site in Britain. As part of the deal, the company is supplying 100,000 tonnes to build a sea wall below Shakespeare Cliff, Dover, where the vast amounts of chalk marl dug from under the sea are being dumped. But it is not the first time the company, Britain's largest cement manufacturer, has had to supply such a large amount in one go. For 46 years ago, it won an order to supply 750,000 tonnes of cement to build the Mulberry harbours for the Normandy landings. "I was not around at the time," says Ian McKenzie, chief executive of Blue Circle Cement, who admits that the deal is worth more than £20 million.

HANDMADE sign seen in the rear window of a Majestic Wine Warehouse delivery van: "No baby - drive as close as you like."

JON ASHWORTH

THE TIMES GUIDE TO 1992

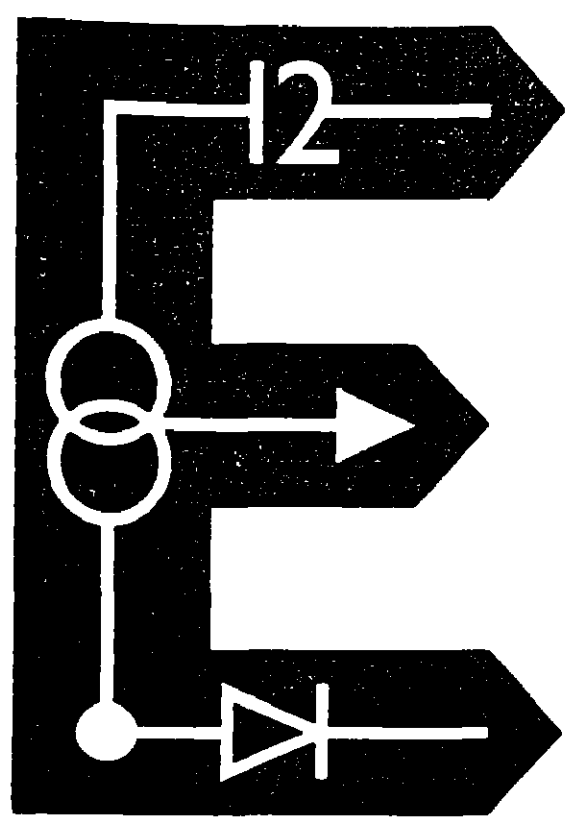
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The Regional Electricity Companies Share Offers

Eastern Electricity plc East Midlands Electricity plc London Electricity plc Manweb plc
Midlands Electricity plc Northern Electric plc NORWEB plc SEEBOARD plc Southern Electric plc
South Wales Electricity plc South Western Electricity plc Yorkshire Electricity Group plc

Offers for Sale

by
Kleinwort Benson Limited

on behalf of
The Secretary of State for Energy

HM Government is now offering for sale 100 per cent. of the ordinary share capital of each of the 12 Regional Electricity Companies of England and Wales.
The offer price of 240p per share is payable in instalments of 100p now, 70p on 22nd October 1991 and 70p on 15th September 1992.

This advertisement contains the terms and conditions of application, a guide to completing the public application form and the public application form. This advertisement does not contain any information about the Regional Electricity Companies ("RECs"). It should therefore be read in conjunction with the full Prospectus dated 21st November 1990 which alone contains approved listing particulars relating to each REC. Copies of the full Prospectus may be obtained, from most clearing bank branches and post offices. In applying for shares in any REC you will be treated as applying on the basis of the information in the relevant sections of the full Prospectus and on the terms and conditions set out below. Expressions defined in the full Prospectus have the same meaning in this advertisement. Before deciding to apply for shares you should consider carefully whether shares are a suitable investment for you. Their value can go down as well as up. If you need advice, you should consult a stockbroker, solicitor, accountant, bank manager or other professional adviser. The Council of The Stock Exchange has authorised the issue of this advertisement under Section 154(1)(b) of the Financial Services Act 1986 without approving its contents.

SHARE OFFERS AND APPLICATION AND INSTALMENT ARRANGEMENTS

(a) Share offers			
The number of shares being offered in each company in the United Kingdom and overseas is:			
Eastern	269,875,000	NORWEB	172,720,000
East Midlands	218,059,000	SEEBOARD	127,381,000
London	218,059,000	Southern	269,875,000
Manweb	118,745,000	South Wales	101,473,000
Midlands	209,423,000	SWEB	123,063,000
Northern	123,063,000	Yorkshire	207,264,000

(b) Applications
Applications must be received no later than 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 5th December 1990. The right is reserved to reject, in whole or in part, any application. Once made, applications may not be withdrawn.

(c) No multiple applications
ONLY ONE APPLICATION MAY BE MADE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANY PERSON FOR SHARES IN ANY SINGLE REC. The only exceptions to this rule are Permitted Employee Applications (as defined in the Prospectus) which may be made by eligible employees of the RECs, NGC and EASL.

Multiple applications and suspected multiple applications are liable to be rejected. Criminal proceedings may be instituted against anyone knowingly making or authorising more than one application for shares in any single REC, for their own benefit, or that of any other person, either solely or jointly with other persons. Under the terms and conditions, an applicant can be required to disclose to the Secretary of State or his agents any information about the application which may be requested.

(d) Allocations
The basis of allocation of the shares in each REC is expected to be announced by 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 10th December 1990. If your application for shares in any REC is successful in whole or in part, you will be sent an interim certificate for the shares allocated to you in that REC. If there is heavy demand for the shares in any particular REC, you may receive fewer shares than you apply for in that REC or, in some cases, none at all.

If your application is not accepted, all money paid will be returned (without interest). If your application is accepted in part, you will receive (without interest) a refund cheque for the balance of the money paid.

(e) Dealings
Interim certificates are expected to be despatched to successful applicants on or before Wednesday, 19th December 1990. However, dealings are expected to commence in London at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 11th December 1990. Applicants who wish to sell before they

have received an interim certificate will only be able to do so if they make arrangements to deal on this basis. Applicants who deal before receipt of an interim certificate will do so at the risk of selling shares for which they have not received an allocation.

(f) Further instalments
You will be sent reminders in advance of the dates when the second and final instalments become payable. The reminders will be sent to your address on the relevant register at the time. If you do not pay any instalments for which you are liable, your right to the shares may be cancelled. If you sell your shares, the purchaser will become liable for any further instalments due (once the transfer has been registered).

(g) Overseas applicants
No person receiving a copy of this advertisement and/or an application form in any territory other than the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man may treat the same as constituting an invitation or offer to him, nor should he in any event use such application form unless, in the relevant territory, such an invitation or offer could lawfully be made to him or such form could lawfully be used without contravention by any person of any registration or other regulatory or legal requirements. It is the responsibility of any person outside the United Kingdom receiving a copy of this advertisement and/or an application form and wishing to make an application to satisfy himself as to full observance of the laws of any relevant territory in connection therewith, including the obtaining of requisite governmental or other consents or the observance of any other requisite formalities and the payment of any issue, transfer or other taxes due in such territory.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

If you apply for shares in a Regional Electricity Company ("REC") you will be agreeing with the Secretary of State for Energy Kleinwort Benson Limited, Lloyds Bank Plc, Barclays Bank Plc, National Westminster Bank Plc, The Royal Trust Company and that REC (the "Company") as set out below. If you apply for shares in more than one REC your application for shares in each REC will be treated as a separate and independent application.

- Offer to purchase shares**
- You offer to purchase from the Secretary of State at the Offer Price the number of shares indicated in your application for any number in respect of which your application is accepted in the Company on these terms and conditions.
 - You agree that your offer cannot be revoked prior to 12th January 1991 and promise that the cheque or draft accompanying your application will be honoured on first presentation. The Secretary of State agrees that he will not, prior to 12th January 1991, offer any of the shares in the Company to any person other than by means of one of the procedures referred to in the Prospectus. If you are an eligible customer you will be entitled to customer preference on the basis described in Part 1 of Chapter VI of Section 1 of the Prospectus. This paragraph constitutes a collateral contract between you and the Secretary of State. It becomes binding when your application is posted to, or (if delivered) is received by, a receiving bank.
 - If your application form is not completed correctly, or if the accompanying cheque or draft is for the wrong amount, it may still be treated as valid. In these circumstances the Secretary of State's (or his agent's) decision as to whether to treat your application as valid, and how to construe, amend or complete it, shall be final. You will not, however, be treated as having offered to purchase more shares in the Company than is indicated in your application for shares in the Company.
 - Any application may be rejected in whole or in part.
 - Acceptance of your offer to purchase shares
 - The Secretary of State may accept your offer to purchase (if your application is received, valid, processed and not rejected) either (a) by notifying The Stock Exchange of the basis of allocation (in which case the acceptance will be on that basis) or (b) by notifying acceptance to the receiving bank which processed your application. The acceptance may be of the whole or any part of your offer and, accordingly, the number of shares in the Company you offer to purchase may be scaled down.
 - If the Secretary of State accepts your offer to purchase (in whole or in part) there will be a binding contract under which you will be required to purchase the shares in respect of which your offer has been accepted if, prior to 12th January 1991, both (a) the shares in the Company which are the subject of the Combined Offers are admitted to the Official List of The Stock Exchange and (b) the UK Underwriting Agreement referred to in Part 9 of Chapter V of Section 1 of the Prospectus is not terminated, and the underwriting obligation under that Agreement becomes unconditional, in respect of the shares in the Company.
 - You will not be entitled to exercise any remedy of rescission for innocent misrepresentation at any time after acceptance. This does not affect any other rights you may have.
- Payment for the shares**
- You undertake to pay the purchase price for the shares in the Company in respect of which your offer is accepted in three instalments as described in the Prospectus. The cheque or draft accompanying your application may be presented for payment before acceptance of your offer, but this will not constitute acceptance of your offer either in whole or in part. The proceeds of this presentation will be held pending acceptance and, if your offer is accepted, will be applied in discharging the first instalment, which is due upon acceptance. The second instalment is due on 22nd October 1991 and the third instalment is due on 15th September 1992 (and, in each case, for value by 3.00 p.m. on that date). Following payment in full of the purchase price the Secretary of State will arrange for the shares which you have agreed to purchase to be transferred to you. The transfer will not, however, occur before 18th August 1992.
 - If your application is invalid, is rejected or is not accepted in full, or if the circumstances described in paragraph 8(a) or (b) do not occur prior to 12th January 1991, any proceeds of the cheque or draft accompanying your application (or, if your application is accepted in part, the unused balance of those proceeds) will be refunded to you without interest.

- The Secretary of State may require you to pay interest or his other resulting costs (or both) if the cheque or draft accompanying your application is not honoured on first presentation. If you are required to pay interest you will pay the amount determined by the Secretary of State or his agents to be the interest on the amount of the cheque or draft from the date of acceptance until the date of receipt of cleared funds. The rate of interest will be the then published bank base rate of a clearing bank selected by the Secretary of State plus 2 per cent. per annum. The Secretary of State may apply part of any payment received from you in paying this interest or other costs. In this event (or if the late payment is for other reasons insufficient) the remainder of the payment will be applied in paying the first instalment in respect of as many shares in the Company as possible. If the payment is in respect of the shares in more than one REC, the Secretary of State may apportion it in any manner between the shares in those RECs. Any balance of the payment remaining will be held by the Secretary of State on your behalf and may be applied in paying any other amounts due to the Secretary of State. If the Secretary of State terminates the agreement to purchase shares under paragraph 11 below and no other amounts remain due to the Secretary of State, the remaining balance will be returned to you (without interest).
 - At any time until the Secretary of State has received, in cleared funds, the first instalment in respect of a share the Secretary of State may terminate the agreement to purchase that share. The termination will be effected by notice being despatched to you. In the event of termination you will pay to the Secretary of State, on demand, such amount as may be certified on his behalf as being necessary to compensate the Secretary of State for the losses, costs and expenses incurred or expected to be incurred as a result of the cheque or draft not being honoured on first presentation and as a result of terminating (taking into account any amounts paid under paragraph 10 above) and any profit gained on the resale of the share.
 - If you receive any interim certificate in respect of the shares you have agreed to purchase before the Secretary of State has received, in cleared funds, the first instalment in respect of those shares, you shall forthwith return it to the receiving banker from which it was sent.
- Instalment Agreement**
- Upon receipt by the Secretary of State in cleared funds of the first instalment in respect of any share for which your offer to purchase has been accepted you will become a party to, and will be bound by, the Instalment Agreement in respect of that share. Accordingly, from that date you will be entitled to the benefits of rights attached to that share in accordance with the terms of the Instalment Agreement. Until that date the Secretary of State will remain entitled to the benefit of all rights attached to that share. Upon your becoming a party to the Instalment Agreement in respect of any share, the obligations to pay the second and final instalments in respect of that share, and the obligation to transfer shares to you, contained in paragraph 8 above will be replaced by the corresponding obligations in the Instalment Agreement. If, as the date you become a party to the Instalment Agreement, the second or final instalment (or both) has already fallen due and has not been paid, you will be obliged to pay that or those instalments in accordance with the terms of the Instalment Agreement as if you were a "Purchaser" (as defined in the Instalment Agreement) on the due date for that or those instalments.
- Incentives**
- If you are eligible and your offer to purchase shares in the Company is accepted, you will be entitled to receive any incentive in relation to the Company you may have elected to receive in your application. This entitlement is governed by, and you must comply with, the requirements set out, or referred to, in Chapter VI of Section 1 of the Prospectus.
- Warranties**
- You warrant that:
 - You are not under 18 years of age on the date of your application.
 - You are not, and you are not applying on behalf of, a US or Canadian person (as defined in Part 2 of Chapter VI of Section 1 of the Prospectus) or an individual, corporation or entity resident in Japan.
 - If your application, together with all other applications in which you have an interest, were

- accepted in full, neither you, nor any person on whose behalf you are applying, would have an interest (as defined in Article 40 of the Articles of Association of the Company) in shares representing 15 per cent. or more of the issued share capital of the Company.
 - In making your application you are relying only on the Prospectus and the Mini Prospectus taken together with the Prospectus and not on any other information or representation concerning the Company or the Combined Offers. You agree that no person responsible for the Prospectus or any part of it will be liable for any such other information or representation.
 - If the laws of any place outside the United Kingdom are applicable to your application, you have complied with all such laws and none of the parties mentioned at the top of these terms and conditions will infringe any laws outside the United Kingdom as a result of the acceptance of your offer to purchase or any amounts arising from your rights and obligations under these terms and conditions, the Instalment Agreement and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.
 - If the person signing the application is not the applicant, that person warrants that he has authority to do so on behalf of the applicant and that that authority is vested in him by virtue of any power of attorney which (or a copy of which) accompanies the application.
- Supply and disclosure of information**
- The Secretary of State and his agents may have full access to all information relating to, or deriving from, the cheque or draft accompanying your application and its processing. If the Secretary of State or his agents request any further information about your application you must promptly disclose it to them. Upon your becoming a party to the Instalment Agreement your name(s) will be placed on the register of interim rights for the Company and, if you pay your instalments and do not transfer those rights, subsequently on its register of members. These registers are open to inspection by the public, who may take copies in return for a prescribed fee. The information supplied in, or in connection with, your application may also be disclosed to HM Government departments (and their agents) concerned with other privatisations and to members of the police forces for compiling lists of suspected multiple applicants.
- No multiple applications**
- You warrant that the declarations on your application form are true and correct. If they are not you may be making a multiple application. Any interim certificate or returned application monies relating to a person suspected of making a multiple application may be held (in the case of monies, without interest) pending investigation.
- Miscellaneous**
- All documents and any returned monies will be sent at your risk. They may be sent by post to you at the address shown on the application form. Any cheque will be made payable to you (or the first person named in any joint application).
 - You agree to be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company once the shares you have agreed to purchase have been transferred to you.
 - Your application, any acceptance of that application and the contract resulting therefrom will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of England. For the exclusive benefit of the parties mentioned at the top of these terms and conditions you irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction of the English courts in respect of these matters. This does not prevent an action being taken against you in any other jurisdiction.
 - Reference to these terms and conditions to the full prospectus dated 21st November 1990 containing listing particulars relating to each of the RECs. Words defined in the Prospectus have the same meanings in these terms and conditions and in your application. In the case of a joint application, references to you in these terms and conditions are to each of you and your liability is joint and several.
 - Neither Kleinwort Benson Limited nor any of the banks mentioned at the top of these terms and conditions will treat you as its customer by virtue of your making an application for shares or by virtue of your offer to purchase being accepted. In particular, they will not owe you any duty or responsibilities concerning the price of the shares or concerning the suitability of shares for you.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RETURN OF YOUR APPLICATION FORM

SEND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM BY POST (OR TAKE IT BY HAND) TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 10.00 AM ON WEDNESDAY 5TH DECEMBER 1990, at the appropriate receiving bank address shown below for the company you have applied for on this form

Company	Receiving bank	Address
Eastern	National Westminster Bank PLC	Registrar's Department, PO Box No. 663, Hartcliffe, Bristol BS99 1XU
East Midlands	Barclays Bank PLC	New Issues, PO Box No. 123, Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4HD
London	Lloyds Bank Plc	Registrar's Department, PO Box 1994, Quayside Tower, 260 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HU
Manweb	Barclays Bank PLC	New Issues, PO Box No. 123, Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4HD
Midlands	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc	Registrar's Department, PO Box No. 7, Canning House, 19 Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8TE
Northern	Bank of Scotland	New Issues Department, Apex House, 9 Haddington Place, Edinburgh EH7 4AL
NORWEB	Bank of Scotland	New Issues Department, Apex House, 9 Haddington Place, Edinburgh EH7 4AL
SEEBOARD	Lloyds Bank Plc	Registrar's Department, PO Box 1994, Quayside Tower, 260 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HU
Southern	Lloyds Bank Plc	Registrar's Department, PO Box 1994, Quayside Tower, 260 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HU
South Wales	Barclays Bank PLC	New Issues, PO Box No. 123, Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4HD
SWEB	National Westminster Bank PLC	Registrar's Department, PO Box No. 663, Hartcliffe, Bristol BS99 1XU
Yorkshire	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc	Registrar's Department, PO Box No. 7, Canning House, 19 Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8TE

YOU ARE ADVISED TO USE FIRST CLASS POST AND TO ALLOW AT LEAST TWO DAYS FOR DELIVERY OR

TAKE THIS FORM BY HAND BEFORE 3.30 PM ON TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 1990 to any UK branch of Lloyds, Barclays, NatWest, Bank of Scotland, The Royal Bank of Scotland or Ulster Bank

OR TAKE THIS FORM BY HAND BEFORE 10.00 AM ON WEDNESDAY 5TH DECEMBER 1990 TO ANY OF THE RECEIVING CENTRES LISTED OPPOSITE

(open only for deliveries by hand)

Belfast Ulster Bank Limited, Personal Investment Unit, 88/90 High Street, Belfast	National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, 2 Princes Street, London EC2
Birmingham Lloyds Bank Plc, 125 Colmore Row, Birmingham	Barclays Bank PLC, New Issues, Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4
Bristol National Westminster Bank PLC, 32 Corn Street, Bristol	Manchester National Westminster Bank PLC, 55 King Street, Manchester
Cardiff Barclays Bank PLC, 121 Queen Street, Cardiff	Newcastle Upon Tyne Bank of Scotland, 62/68 Grey Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne
Edinburgh The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh	Norwich Barclays Bank PLC, Bank Plain, Norwich
Exeter Lloyds Bank Plc, 234 High Street, Exeter	Nottingham Lloyds Bank Plc, Old Market Square, Nottingham
Glasgow Bank of Scotland, 110 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow	Peterborough Lloyds Bank Plc, Angon Court, Northminster Road, Peterborough
Leeds National Westminster Bank PLC, 8 Park Row, Leeds	Plymouth Barclays Bank PLC, 19 Princess Street, Plymouth
Liverpool Barclays Bank PLC, 4 Water Street, Liverpool	Southampton Lloyds Bank Plc, 19/21 High Street, Southampton
London Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, 1st Floor, 2nd Floor, Bois House, 80 Cheapside, London EC2	Jersey Lloyds Bank Plc, 9 Broad Street, St. Helier, Jersey
	Guernsey National Westminster Bank PLC, 35 High Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey

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SHORTLY AFTER
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From your Portfolio Platinum card check your daily share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	City or Country
1	Unilever (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
2	Lloyds (ns)	Banking/Discount	UK
3	Ud Newspapers (ns)	Newspapers/Pub	UK
4	Nitin Foods (ns)	Food	UK
5	Croft James	Building/Roads	UK
6	QinetiQ	Electronics	UK
7	Glaxo (ns)	Pharmaceutical	UK
8	Computer People	Industrial S-Z	UK
9	Ocean Group	Transport	UK
10	GNV (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
11	BOC Group (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
12	Rediffm (ns)	Building/Roads	UK
13	BOC (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
14	Proving	Building/Roads	UK
15	Lawrence (Walker)	Building/Roads	UK
16	BA	Transport	UK
17	Micro Focus	Electronics	UK
18	Barrett (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
19	Electronics	Electronics	UK
20	Nat West (ns)	Banking/Discount	UK
21	Ulster (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
22	Smith W & A (ns)	Drugs/Pharm	UK
23	Br Parnham (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
24	Land Sec (ns)	Property	UK
25	McIntyre	Property	UK
26	Beattie	Drugs/Pharm	UK
27	Bald (Wm)	Industrial S-Z	UK
28	Reman (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
29	Leigh	Chemicals/Plas	UK
30	Flow Tech	Electronics	UK
31	Equinox Trust	Property	UK
32	Applere Ridge	Food	UK
33	Turnbull Scott	Transport	UK
34	Shell (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
35	P&O Ltd (ns)	Transport	UK
36	Pyne	Chemicals/Plas	UK
37	Reynolds	Industrial S-Z	UK
38	Cole Bros	Banking/Discount	UK
39	Amec	Building/Roads	UK
40	Pearson (ns)	Newspapers/Pub	UK
41	CH Ltd	Industrial S-Z	UK
42	UK Land	Property	UK
43	O Hain Newspaper Ltd	UK	UK

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

Two readers shared the £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mrs Margaret Little of Reading, Berks, and Mrs Rosalind Leonard of East Croydon, London, each receive £2,000.

BRITISH FUNDS

No.	Company	Group	City or Country
1	Unilever (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
2	Lloyds (ns)	Banking/Discount	UK
3	Ud Newspapers (ns)	Newspapers/Pub	UK
4	Nitin Foods (ns)	Food	UK
5	Croft James	Building/Roads	UK
6	QinetiQ	Electronics	UK
7	Glaxo (ns)	Pharmaceutical	UK
8	Computer People	Industrial S-Z	UK
9	Ocean Group	Transport	UK
10	GNV (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
11	BOC Group (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
12	Rediffm (ns)	Building/Roads	UK
13	BOC (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
14	Proving	Building/Roads	UK
15	Lawrence (Walker)	Building/Roads	UK
16	BA	Transport	UK
17	Micro Focus	Electronics	UK
18	Barrett (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
19	Electronics	Electronics	UK
20	Nat West (ns)	Banking/Discount	UK
21	Ulster (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
22	Smith W & A (ns)	Drugs/Pharm	UK
23	Br Parnham (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
24	Land Sec (ns)	Property	UK
25	McIntyre	Property	UK
26	Beattie	Drugs/Pharm	UK
27	Bald (Wm)	Industrial S-Z	UK
28	Reman (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
29	Leigh	Chemicals/Plas	UK
30	Flow Tech	Electronics	UK
31	Equinox Trust	Property	UK
32	Applere Ridge	Food	UK
33	Turnbull Scott	Transport	UK
34	Shell (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
35	P&O Ltd (ns)	Transport	UK
36	Pyne	Chemicals/Plas	UK
37	Reynolds	Industrial S-Z	UK
38	Cole Bros	Banking/Discount	UK
39	Amec	Building/Roads	UK
40	Pearson (ns)	Newspapers/Pub	UK
41	CH Ltd	Industrial S-Z	UK
42	UK Land	Property	UK
43	O Hain Newspaper Ltd	UK	UK

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

No.	Company	Group	City or Country
1	Unilever (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
2	Lloyds (ns)	Banking/Discount	UK
3	Ud Newspapers (ns)	Newspapers/Pub	UK
4	Nitin Foods (ns)	Food	UK
5	Croft James	Building/Roads	UK
6	QinetiQ	Electronics	UK
7	Glaxo (ns)	Pharmaceutical	UK
8	Computer People	Industrial S-Z	UK
9	Ocean Group	Transport	UK
10	GNV (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
11	BOC Group (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
12	Rediffm (ns)	Building/Roads	UK
13	BOC (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
14	Proving	Building/Roads	UK
15	Lawrence (Walker)	Building/Roads	UK
16	BA	Transport	UK
17	Micro Focus	Electronics	UK
18	Barrett (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
19	Electronics	Electronics	UK
20	Nat West (ns)	Banking/Discount	UK
21	Ulster (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
22	Smith W & A (ns)	Drugs/Pharm	UK
23	Br Parnham (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
24	Land Sec (ns)	Property	UK
25	McIntyre	Property	UK
26	Beattie	Drugs/Pharm	UK
27	Bald (Wm)	Industrial S-Z	UK
28	Reman (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
29	Leigh	Chemicals/Plas	UK
30	Flow Tech	Electronics	UK
31	Equinox Trust	Property	UK
32	Applere Ridge	Food	UK
33	Turnbull Scott	Transport	UK
34	Shell (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
35	P&O Ltd (ns)	Transport	UK
36	Pyne	Chemicals/Plas	UK
37	Reynolds	Industrial S-Z	UK
38	Cole Bros	Banking/Discount	UK
39	Amec	Building/Roads	UK
40	Pearson (ns)	Newspapers/Pub	UK
41	CH Ltd	Industrial S-Z	UK
42	UK Land	Property	UK
43	O Hain Newspaper Ltd	UK	UK

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Group	City or Country
1	Unilever (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
2	Lloyds (ns)	Banking/Discount	UK
3	Ud Newspapers (ns)	Newspapers/Pub	UK
4	Nitin Foods (ns)	Food	UK
5	Croft James	Building/Roads	UK
6	QinetiQ	Electronics	UK
7	Glaxo (ns)	Pharmaceutical	UK
8	Computer People	Industrial S-Z	UK
9	Ocean Group	Transport	UK
10	GNV (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
11	BOC Group (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
12	Rediffm (ns)	Building/Roads	UK
13	BOC (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
14	Proving	Building/Roads	UK
15	Lawrence (Walker)	Building/Roads	UK
16	BA	Transport	UK
17	Micro Focus	Electronics	UK
18	Barrett (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
19	Electronics	Electronics	UK
20	Nat West (ns)	Banking/Discount	UK
21	Ulster (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
22	Smith W & A (ns)	Drugs/Pharm	UK
23	Br Parnham (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
24	Land Sec (ns)	Property	UK
25	McIntyre	Property	UK
26	Beattie	Drugs/Pharm	UK
27	Bald (Wm)	Industrial S-Z	UK
28	Reman (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
29	Leigh	Chemicals/Plas	UK
30	Flow Tech	Electronics	UK
31	Equinox Trust	Property	UK
32	Applere Ridge	Food	UK
33	Turnbull Scott	Transport	UK
34	Shell (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
35	P&O Ltd (ns)	Transport	UK
36	Pyne	Chemicals/Plas	UK
37	Reynolds	Industrial S-Z	UK
38	Cole Bros	Banking/Discount	UK
39	Amec	Building/Roads	UK
40	Pearson (ns)	Newspapers/Pub	UK
41	CH Ltd	Industrial S-Z	UK
42	UK Land	Property	UK
43	O Hain Newspaper Ltd	UK	UK

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Group	City or Country
1	Unilever (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
2	Lloyds (ns)	Banking/Discount	UK
3	Ud Newspapers (ns)	Newspapers/Pub	UK
4	Nitin Foods (ns)	Food	UK
5	Croft James	Building/Roads	UK
6	QinetiQ	Electronics	UK
7	Glaxo (ns)	Pharmaceutical	UK
8	Computer People	Industrial S-Z	UK
9	Ocean Group	Transport	UK
10	GNV (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
11	BOC Group (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
12	Rediffm (ns)	Building/Roads	UK
13	BOC (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
14	Proving	Building/Roads	UK
15	Lawrence (Walker)	Building/Roads	UK
16	BA	Transport	UK
17	Micro Focus	Electronics	UK
18	Barrett (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
19	Electronics	Electronics	UK
20	Nat West (ns)	Banking/Discount	UK
21	Ulster (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
22	Smith W & A (ns)	Drugs/Pharm	UK
23	Br Parnham (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
24	Land Sec (ns)	Property	UK
25	McIntyre	Property	UK
26	Beattie	Drugs/Pharm	UK
27	Bald (Wm)	Industrial S-Z	UK
28	Reman (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
29	Leigh	Chemicals/Plas	UK
30	Flow Tech	Electronics	UK
31	Equinox Trust	Property	UK
32	Applere Ridge	Food	UK
33	Turnbull Scott	Transport	UK
34	Shell (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
35	P&O Ltd (ns)	Transport	UK
36	Pyne	Chemicals/Plas	UK
37	Reynolds	Industrial S-Z	UK
38	Cole Bros	Banking/Discount	UK
39	Amec	Building/Roads	UK
40	Pearson (ns)	Newspapers/Pub	UK
41	CH Ltd	Industrial S-Z	UK
42	UK Land	Property	UK
43	O Hain Newspaper Ltd	UK	UK

UNDATED

No.	Company	Group	City or Country
1	Unilever (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
2	Lloyds (ns)	Banking/Discount	UK
3	Ud Newspapers (ns)	Newspapers/Pub	UK
4	Nitin Foods (ns)	Food	UK
5	Croft James	Building/Roads	UK
6	QinetiQ	Electronics	UK
7	Glaxo (ns)	Pharmaceutical	UK
8	Computer People	Industrial S-Z	UK
9	Ocean Group	Transport	UK
10	GNV (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
11	BOC Group (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
12	Rediffm (ns)	Building/Roads	UK
13	BOC (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
14	Proving	Building/Roads	UK
15	Lawrence (Walker)	Building/Roads	UK
16	BA	Transport	UK
17	Micro Focus	Electronics	UK
18	Barrett (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
19	Electronics	Electronics	UK
20	Nat West (ns)	Banking/Discount	UK
21	Ulster (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
22	Smith W & A (ns)	Drugs/Pharm	UK
23	Br Parnham (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
24	Land Sec (ns)	Property	UK
25	McIntyre	Property	UK
26	Beattie	Drugs/Pharm	UK
27	Bald (Wm)	Industrial S-Z	UK
28	Reman (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
29	Leigh	Chemicals/Plas	UK
30	Flow Tech	Electronics	UK
31	Equinox Trust	Property	UK
32	Applere Ridge	Food	UK
33	Turnbull Scott	Transport	UK
34	Shell (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
35	P&O Ltd (ns)	Transport	UK
36	Pyne	Chemicals/Plas	UK
37	Reynolds	Industrial S-Z	UK
38	Cole Bros	Banking/Discount	UK
39	Amec	Building/Roads	UK
40	Pearson (ns)	Newspapers/Pub	UK
41	CH Ltd	Industrial S-Z	UK
42	UK Land	Property	UK
43	O Hain Newspaper Ltd	UK	UK

INDEX-LINKED

No.	Company	Group	City or Country
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5	Croft James	Building/Roads	UK
6	QinetiQ	Electronics	UK
7	Glaxo (ns)	Pharmaceutical	UK
8	Computer People	Industrial S-Z	UK
9	Ocean Group	Transport	UK
10	GNV (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
11	BOC Group (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
12	Rediffm (ns)	Building/Roads	UK
13	BOC (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
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16	BA	Transport	UK
17	Micro Focus	Electronics	UK
18	Barrett (ns)	Industrial S-Z	UK
19	Electronics	Electronics	UK
20	Nat West (ns)	Banking/Discount	UK
21	Ulster (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
22	Smith W & A (ns)	Drugs/Pharm	UK
23	Br Parnham (ns)	Oil/Gas	UK
24	Land Sec (ns)	Property	UK
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27	Bald (Wm)	Industrial S-Z	UK
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40	Pearson (ns)	Newspapers/Pub	UK
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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1000	Price	Gross	Yld	
	per	city <td>%<td></td></td>	% <td></td>	

Court of Appeal

Discretion to allow case to go on out of time

Halford v Brookes and Another
Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Russell
[Judgment November 26]

Knowledge that a particular claim was available was not a fact ascertainable only with the help of expert advice within the meaning of section 14 of the Limitation Act 1980.

Where a plaintiff acting as administrator of her deceased daughter's estate knew in 1978 that the injuries which had caused the daughter's death were intentionally inflicted by the defendants, she had at that date the necessary knowledge to begin proceedings within the three-year limitation period. Where she failed to do so until after the primary limitation period had expired when she had received expert advice that such facts might found a civil claim for battery, her claim was *prima facie* time barred.

However, in exercising its discretionary power under section 33 of the Act, the court was entitled to take into account her ignorance of her legal rights, and where no criticism in respect of the delay could be levelled against her and where, having regard to the facts and circumstances, the delay was wholly necessary to render the evidence less cogent the court would disapply the limitation period and permit the action to continue.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by Mrs Gail Halford, the plaintiff administratrix of the estate of her deceased daughter, Lynn Siddons, from Mr Justice Schiemann who had concluded on the basis of a preliminary issue that her claim began in 1978 against Michael Brookes and Fitzroy Brookes for damages for battery was time barred and should be discontinued.

Mr Anthony Scriven, QC and Mr Patrick O'Connor for Mrs Halford; Mr Bernard

Livesey, QC and Mr Rupert Mayo for the first defendant; Mr Charles, QC and Mr Edward Collins for the second defendant.

LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL referred to the facts of the case, in particular that on April 3, 1978 the plaintiff's daughter, then aged 16, was strangled and stabbed to death in open countryside near the Trent and Mersey canal in Derbyshire.

The second defendant, then aged 15, confessed that he had attacked her with a knife and was charged with her murder. He later implicated the first defendant, his stepfather, alleging that the latter had planned the murder and had strangled and stabbed her repeatedly, the second defendant only inflicting superficial wounds because he was in fear of his stepfather.

At the trial the first defendant denied any complicity although the pathological evidence supported the second defendant's version of events. In his Lordship's judgment there could be no doubt that as at the date of the murder the plaintiff knew everyone concerned in the case, including the plaintiff, must have understood that one or other of both of the defendants had been responsible for the attack on the girl which had caused her death.

The plaintiff had consulted solicitors at that time and had been advised that the responsibility for instituting a further prosecution against the first defendant rested with the Director of Public Prosecutions. The question of civil proceedings was not canvassed at that stage.

In 1979 and in 1980 and 1981 further evidence came to light, but from the second defendant's acquittal in 1978 until July 1985 the plaintiff and her family continued the campaign to persuade the authorities to prosecute the first defendant. It was at that latter time that for the first time the plaintiff consulted her current solicitors.

Following advice that a civil

claim for damages was feasible, legal aid was immediately obtained and the plaintiff issued the writ in April 1987. The defendants asserted that it was time barred.

His Lordship referred to the provisions of sections 11 and 14 which required such an action to be brought within three years of the plaintiff's date of knowledge. *Inter alia*, the relevant injury was significant, and that it was attributable to the acts of the defendants.

Section 14 provided that such knowledge included knowledge which the plaintiff might reasonably have been expected to acquire from *inter alia*, appropriate expert advice, but that she should not be fixed with knowledge of a fact ascertainable only with the help of expert advice so long as she had taken all reasonable steps to obtain that advice.

Mr Scrivener had submitted that she did not have the requisite knowledge contemplated by section 14 until 1985 when she first received legal advice in respect of a civil claim. His Lordship was satisfied that only then that she acquired the necessary knowledge with the help of that legal expert advice.

His Lordship did not accept that argument. The plaintiff did not require expert advice in order to invest in the necessary knowledge contemplated by section 14. She was capable of acquiring that herself, and did so by the conclusion of the second defendant's trial in 1978. Section 14 therefore did not avail her and the action could only proceed if the court found it equitable pursuant to section 33 of the Act.

That section gave a wide discretion to the court, the exercise of which always depended on the individual circumstances of the individual case, although section 33(3) provided that the court should have regard to the matters listed in paragraphs (a) to (f); in particular (a) the length of and the

reasons for the delay on the plaintiff's part; (b) the extent to which having regard to the delay the evidence adduced or likely to be adduced by either party was or was likely to be less cogent than if the action had been brought within the primary limitation period; (c) the extent to which the plaintiff acted promptly and reasonably once it was known whether the defendant's relevant act might be capable of giving rise to an action for damages; and (d) the steps taken by the plaintiff to obtain *inter alia*, legal and other expert advice and the nature of such advice.

The delay between the expiration of the primary limitation period and the issue of the writ was over six years. In many cases that would be fatal, since delay could lead to fading recollections and the disappearance of evidence to the extent that a fair trial could not be had. That was not the present case.

The answer to the question "Who killed Lynn Siddons?" would not depend on the accuracy of anyone's recollection, but essentially on the evidence which the first and second defendants were telling the truth or lying. There was no room for confusion or recollection when the conflict thus far had been so stark.

Despite the passage of time, his Lordship did not accept that a fair and accurate resolution of the conflict between the first and second defendants could not be achieved. In the case of the second defendant the very nature of his defence in the civil proceedings would necessarily lead to an admission of liability to a limited extent, because on any view, he assaulted the victim.

Turning to the reasons for the delay, his Lordship could detect no legitimate criticism of the plaintiff. Once she knew of the existence of the claim, she had done all that could reasonably be expected of her, and it would not be right to regard any

part of the delay as being her responsibility.

The defendants had asserted that a material consideration was whether the plaintiff would recover the fruits of litigation, and that the probabilities being that both defendants were impecunious, state funds, in the form of the legal aid granted to all parties, should not be expended so as to obtain little more than a declaratory judgment.

His Lordship found the argument unattractive. What was alleged against them was a tort, and the probabilities being that both defendants were impecunious, state funds, in the form of the legal aid granted to all parties, should not be expended so as to obtain little more than a declaratory judgment.

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Public interest immunity doctrine applies in crime cases

Regina v Governor of Pentonville Prison and Others, Ex parte Osman (No 4)
Before Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Garland
[Judgment November 14]

The doctrine of public interest immunity applied in criminal proceedings, including *habeas corpus* applications, as well as in civil proceedings. The application of the doctrine in criminal proceedings required that the public interest in non-disclosure be weighed against the interests of justice. The immunity was not extinguished by limited dissemination of the documents.

The privilege in regard to the disclosure of material leading to the detection of crime was a separate head of privilege.

Issue estoppel could apply to applications for *habeas corpus* and there was no reason why a decision on an interlocutory matter could not give rise to an issue estoppel.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in granting a motion by the Secretary of State for the Home and Commonwealth Office under Order 41, rule 6 of the Rules of the Supreme Court that passages in affirmations by Lorraine Ernie Osman in the context of his fourth application for *habeas corpus* dated February 5, 1990 be struck out.

Mr D. Martin Thomas, QC,

Mr Mark H. Lomas and Mr John Mok, of the Hong Kong Bar, for the applicant; Mr Kevin De Haan and Miss Clare Montgomery for the Governor of Pentonville Prison; Mr Clive Nichols, QC and Mr Graham Grant, of the Hong Kong Bar, for the government of Hong Kong; Mr John Laws and Mr Stephen Richards for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE MANN said that in the course of an earlier *habeas corpus* application by the same applicant the Divisional Court on October 3, 1989 had ordered disclosure of nine documents sought by the applicant.

Those documents included confidential letters between the Hong Kong government, the Malaysian High Commission and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, relating to the applicant's extradition to Hong Kong on fraud charges which had been the subject of three unsuccessful *habeas corpus* applications since he was committed on June 1, 1987 under section 7(5) of the Fugitive Offenders Act 1967.

The secretary of state sought to expunge references to the documents on the ground that they were subject to public interest immunity and/or were irrelevant.

His Lordship said that although an application for *habeas corpus* did not end in the establishment of guilt or innocence it did affect the liberty of the subject. He regarded *Amund v Home Secretary and Minister of Defence of Royal Netherlands Government* (1993) AC 147 as a decisive authority for the criminal character of such proceedings.

The seminal cases in public interest immunity did not refer at all to criminal proceedings and expressed the principles in general terms. His Lordship could see no reason why those principles should not apply to criminal proceedings.

The application of the doctrine would involve a different balancing exercise in criminal proceedings, weighing the public interest in non-disclosure against the interests of justice. Where the interests of justice concerned liberty the weight to be attached to the interests of justice was plainly very great indeed.

The question was whether the interests of justice in a particular case outweighed the considerations of public interest spoken to in the earlier cases.

In assessing that side of the balance, his Lordship would ask whether the document to which the certificate related was material to the proceedings. Materiality would depend on the purpose for which it was said to be deployed.

In the present case the applicant had made perfectly plain that the documents were required to demonstrate a lack of good faith on the part of the Hong Kong government.

Mr Justice Leggatt held on an earlier interlocutory application that the documents were not material for that purpose. With that expression of view in the scales the balance came down decisively in favour of public interest immunity.

The court had been referred to a series of cases arising from *Marks v Beyfus* (1890) 25 QB 494 which established a principle in regard to information leading to the detection of crime.

In those cases there were observations to the effect that the privilege could not prevail if the evidence was necessary to prevent

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Initiative, professionalism and a sense of style are but a few of the qualities sought by the charming and dynamic Director of Marketing of a renowned international firm in SW1.

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We are seeking a lively and charming person preferably in their twenties with some experience of estate agency to carry out secretarial duties and assist in the day to day running of our Kensington office. The successful applicant will need sound secretarial skills including WP and audio. The ability to work on one's own initiative and a sense of humour are essential.

Apply to Adam Carey
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The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme requires an efficient and well spoken person to run the Director's office. Good typing and organisational skills essential. Should be prepared to work in Windsor when HQ moves in mid 1991. Salary £11,151-£14,711 p.a. Benefits include BUPA, LV's, contributory pension scheme and a dress allowance.

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A famous international company seeks a sophisticated PA to their Chairman. Enjoy extensive VIP contact as you help co-ordinate his hectic business life and also assist with some personal work. You should be career minded with 100+/60 skills. Age late 20's to 40's ideal.

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Your professional image will be all important in creating a first impression on behalf of ICOS. Duties are 70% switchboard, plus typing and administrative work. If you possess 50/60 level shorthand or equivalent and a typing qualification, this could be the start of a new career for you.

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Typing 55+ wpm Audio - Multitask WP - Property experience an advantage.

Salary: £10,000 - 13,000 neg + Benefits

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£10-14,000
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If you have minimum typing speeds of 60 wpm and are educated to at least 'O' level standard there may be a vacancy for you in one of London's liveliest firms of Chartered Surveyors.

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Business looks to Europe to beat the recession

Even the most optimistic people in the commercial property business now admit that the market is in recession, and will not improve for some time. This brings the opportunity, and the need, to look at other markets, so British companies are having to broaden their outlook to Europe.

A few resourceful companies have already dived in, or at least put their toe in the water, but there is now a noticeable increase in interest in both western and eastern Europe.

The first MIPIM event, organised by the French international market of property professionals, which aimed to provide an international property market, was held in March this year in Cannes, attracting more than 3,000 participants from 22 countries, and more than 200 exhibiting companies.

The organisers are planning a second MIPIM in the south of France at the same time next year, confident that developments, such as the booming office market in Paris and the unification of Germany, have opened new channels for expansion, both for attracting investment and for making contacts with overseas companies looking to establish operations in the UK.

A few deals were done, but the event was essentially an international talking shop. Its success has led to increased interest, and the organisers expect the second MIPIM to be 60 per cent bigger.

British companies are seeking new horizons in the east and south of the Continent as the home market collapses, property correspondent Christopher Warman reports

More than 100 international companies have already signed up to exhibit, including Watergate International Holdings, Chester International, the Commission for the New Towns, Midland Bank, Abbey National, and the American Banker Security Pacific and Goldman Sachs. Eurotunnel is another company expected to attend.

Links with the International Council of Shopping Centers, which is holding its annual conference nearby in Nice at the same time, and the National Association of Corporate Real Estate Executives will also boost numbers. Further evidence of the spreading importance of Europe comes from a report published by Healey & Baker, the international consultant, on the "sunbelt" strip running from Barcelona to Trieste through the Côte d'Azur.

The report explains that the area's population of 30 million produces about a tenth of the wealth of the European Community. An area of high-tech production and services is emerging in the south.

Terence Bendixson, the author of the report, says that, as in

California, the European sunbelt relates more to the rise of the south than to the demise of the north. "The London, Frankfurt, Paris triangle, with Brussels at its midst, shows every sign of remaining Europe's administrative, financial and business centre," the report says. "However, the sunbelt area already has an indisputable track record for growth and is likely to go on outperforming the economies of the three countries (Spain, France and Italy) it spans."

Italy has a gross domestic product that is smaller than those of Germany and France, but greater than Britain's, and it is a leading economic power in Europe. Italy's industrial strength lies in its northern regions, whereas Spain is looking to Catalonia to match Italy's present productivity by 2025. Between these two regions of the sunbelt lies the fastest growing part of the French economy, the report says. Despite this potential, there is still the likelihood of labour shortages in the Nineties, thanks to negligible migration into northern Italy and Catalonia. High-tech companies will therefore have to

move nearer to the suppliers of skilled people, the big universities and polytechnics.

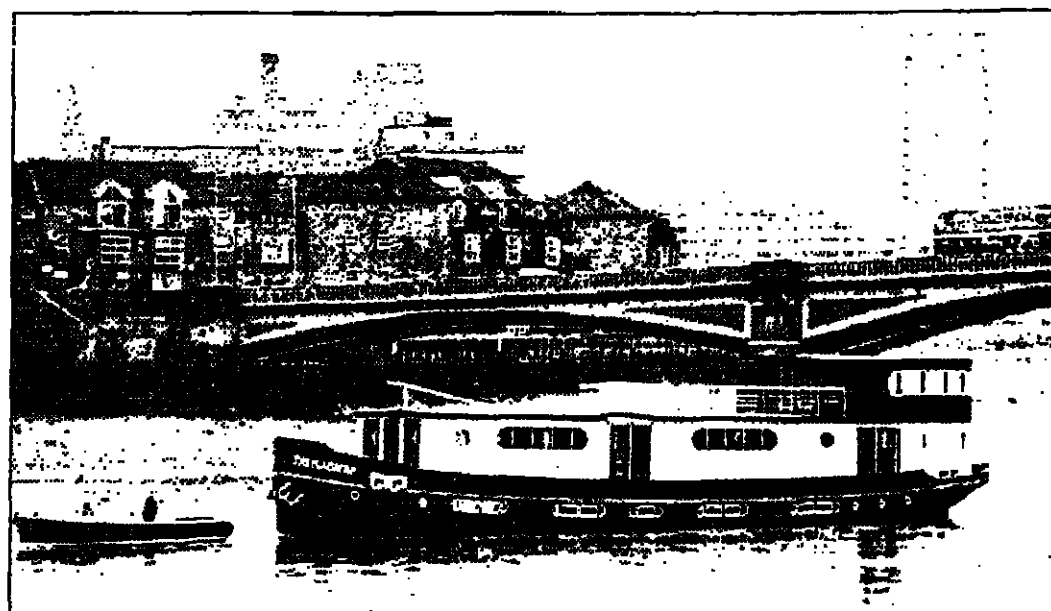
The other important consideration, transport, has brought improvements. The Spanish have even changed the gauge of their railways, so that by the end of the century the French, Spanish and Italian railways can run services at 250 kilometres per hour (150mph) from the Rhone valley, east and west to Nice and Barcelona, and from Lyons, through the Alps, to Turin and Milan.

The report concludes that the sunbelt area will be in competition with eastern Europe, but its specialisation in high technology, underpinned by political stability and the quality of life, seems likely to continue to attract investors.

Earlier this month, a European investment conference organised by Jones Lang Wootton looked at prospects in eastern Europe in the light of the realisation that, while investment opportunities can and will be found, primarily in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland, the commitment must be long-term. Developers generally see more immediate attractions than pure investors.

Germany's investment capacity is now being directed mainly towards the former East Germany, resulting in less investment available for the markets of Spain and Italy.

Exhibition details: International Exhibition Organisation (071-528 0086).



An ideal sales office?

The Flagship may seem an unusual office building, but it is claimed to be the first ship designed to be a floating corporate headquarters. Last week, it made its maiden voyage from a dockyard in Brentford, west London, to a mooring at Cadogan Pier on the Chelsea Embankment. The ship is the first marine office venture of the London Tideway Harbour Company, which designed and commissioned the refit on the hull of

a 252-tonne Dutch coaster. The accommodation, on three decks, totals 2,600 sq ft, including a boardroom and room for up to 30 staff. The Flagship is being marketed by London Tideway and the agent John D. Wood, who suggest that it could become the London base of an international company, an architectural or design group, or an advertising agency headquarters. The price of this "office" is more than £400,000.

The Bride of Denmark, a rare, private pub, is being offered for sale as part of one of London's finest Georgian office properties, a group of five intercommunicating, Grade I listed buildings at Chosen Anne's Gate, Westminster. The Victorian-style pub in the basement is open only to occupants and visitors, and was created after the second world war when H. de C. Hastings, the joint owner of Architectural Press, which occupied the building, brought together a number of Victorian pub fittings he had rescued from the

IN THE MARKET

tilt. The buildings consist of 12,634 sq ft of office space and are being offered by Baker Lorenz and Newton Perkins, the agents, at the unusually low rent of less than £19 per sq ft, with a 20-year full repairing and insuring lease.

Park Row House in Leeds is an impressive 45,000 sq ft office development in the city's main business core. The building will be available for occupation next month after a programme of

restoration. Park Row is likely to be the first office building in Leeds to achieve £20 per sq ft for a large letting, according to Robert Firth, of the agent Bernard Thorpe, which is marketing it with Knight Frank & Rutley and Weatherall Green and Smith. The offices have been constructed behind the Alfred Waterhouse facade and the development was carried out by Burton Property Trust and Confederation Life. The agents are quoting £25 per sq ft for the ground-floor banking hall and £20 per sq ft for the offices.

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perty, the "City Neues Berlin", class and shape. Its location is at the top address in Berlin: on the Friedrichstrasse in the city centre between the Brandenburger Tor, Potsdamer Platz, Leipziger Strasse, the Platz der Akademie and Unter den Linden. It's as if the Champs-Élysées, Regent Street, Via Veneto and Fifth Avenue were the godparents.

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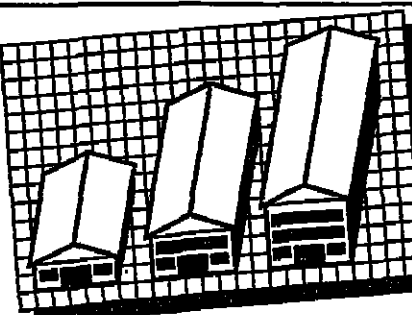
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Wimbledon springs surprise with record £9.6m profit

The future for Wimbledon looks rather rosier. Having weathered the storm of the new safety regulations and even managed to persuade Merton Borough Council to relax some of its Draconian regulations for next year's championships, profits — and therefore the LTA's income — should surge ahead again next year. "But," Peacock warned, "we can't buy a Nigel Kennedy, a Kenneth Branagh or a Nick Faldo. They have to emerge." And sooner rather than later.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS XI (no play)
Worcestershire under-19 at Roehampton on
November 13: J. Meers (Aldenham); N.
Wes (Hartpton); L. Allen (Elizabeth
College, Guernsey); D. Walmsley
(Chester GS); N. Gordon (CEGS,
Buckburn); R. Hill (Hulme GS); A. Sennott
(Woodrow); J. Taylor (CEGS, Blackburn).
Middlesex (Weymouth); A. Griffin
(Hartpton); D. Mackay (Elizabeth College).

Spaniard slides off track to hand lead to flying Finn

Between two and four in the afternoon, special stages at Wythob, Comb and Grnzdale in the Lake District form the final competitive sections before the event returns to the finish line in Harrogate at 5pm.

OVERALL POSITIONS (after 31 special stages, at overnight halt):
Kardemum/J. Pöörten (FIN), Lancia Delta Integrale, 4hr 07min 32. C. Scazzola, M. Scazzola (ITA), Lancia Delta Integrale, 4hr 08min 32. S. Eriksson/S. Persson (SWE), Mitsubishi Galant VR6, 4hr 09min 24. M. Blomström/J. Sjöberg (FIN), Lancia Delta Integrale, 4hr 11min 56. J. Pöörten/J. Pöörten (FIN), Lancia Delta Integrale, 4hr 12min 30. D. Auriol/B. Occelli (FRA), Lancia Delta Integrale, 4hr 14min 20.



Halliday may rejoin Harlequins

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

eight times at international level, would be alluring for Halliday who added: "I would such luminaries as Bill Campbell, Jason Little, Tim Horan and the 1987 Fijian World-Cup It is a more powerful team than usual, including ten internationals from six countries.

Orrell are forced to cut fixtures

University at Grange Road today. He replaces the injured Gavin Hastings and brings to four the number of Swansea backs in the team, alongside Titley, Parfin and Robert Jones.

Women's game on the ball

There are eight players who have yet to appear in a senior world championship: the goalkeepers, Gary Brinc and Scott O'Connor; the defencemen, Paul Pentland, Paul Heavey and Chuck Taylor; and the forwards, Bobby Haig, Iain Robertson, Dean Edmiston and Mark Budz. The five games, to be staged at Cracknell, Nottingham, Lumberville, Whitley Bay and

before naming his 21-man squad for the championships, which start in Copenhagen, on March 22.

SQUAD: Goalkeepers: J. McCrone, M. Jensen, M. McKay, S. O'Connor, G. Brins, J. Smith, D. Graham. Defencemen: A. Reid, P. Jamieson, G. Kelland, P. Hard, S. Cooper, P. Lee, B. Mason, C. Taylor, P. Heavry. Forwards: T. Hand, S. Neil, B. Hain, J. Medale, I. Cooper, A. Johnson, S. Johnson, J. Edmondson, J. Crapper, N. Rhodes, G. Steffen, M. Blach, K. MacNaught, J. Lowrie, J. Taylor, G. Smith, G. Slater. Coach: A. Dampier.

nts aim to earn stripes

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Claire Blower, who has extensive racing experience, is the new women's national road coach. Having coached her sister, Maria, to sixth place in the 1988 Olympic road race, Blower will now give special attention

LeMahieu Felled out by injury

Claire Blower, who has extensive racing experience, is the new women's national road coach. Having coached her sister, Maria, to sixth place in the 1988 Olympic road race, Blower will now give special attention

NG

Blower, who has extensive racing experience, is the coach. Having coached her sister, Maria, to sixth place in the 1988 Olympic road race, Blower now give special attention

CYCLING Coaches appointed

Sturgess, a former junior
coach, has been ap-
pointed national track pursuit
coach, with responsibility for
men and women, seniors and

Smith is left out of British squad

This is part of the build up to pool C of the world championships and, of the players involved in gaining promotion from pool D last season, only Al Smith has been omitted.

Coaches appointed

Sturgess, a former junior
coach, has been ap-
pointed national track pursuit
coach, with responsibility for
men and women, seniors and

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Arsenal meet Manchester United for the first time since their fateful fixture at Old Trafford

Defiant Graham is in the mood to silence his critics

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THERE may be a sense of déjà vu about the fixture but both sides insist that there can be no question of an action replay when Arsenal entertain Manchester United at Highbury tonight.

The fourth round Rumbelows League Cup tie comes only a month after the teams were involved in a brawl during a first division match at Old Trafford, which resulted in the Football Association docking two points from Arsenal, one from United, and fining both clubs £50,000.

George Graham, the Arsenal manager who, along with five of his players, was fined two weeks' wages by a Highbury board indignantly about the dent to the club's image, was in a bullish mood yesterday.

"There is no doubt that this will again be a highly competitive game and we are going out to win it," he said. "Of course, we are aware that many people will regard playing United as something more than just an important football match. But my priority has still got to be the same - to win. Obviously, it is not just another game but we have got

to be professional enough to try to treat it in the same way. I am looking at it as more important than our League game with Liverpool this Sunday. If we win this one, we are in the quarter-finals of a major competition but, whatever the result on Sunday, the League season is still less than half over.

"We are not the media's darlings and never have been," he said. "But we have got to the stage where all the flak from the critics no longer hurts us. In fact, it has bound us all closer together. People still insist on missing the point that, overall, our disciplinary record is still very good."

"The fact that some sections of the media seem to delight in picking us out will have no bearing on what we are aiming to achieve. Our own supporters have been magnificent this season and you only have to ask them if they are happy with what is going on at Highbury."

"We are still unbeaten in 17 games - Arsenal's best start to a season for 43 years - and we are second in the League. So we must be doing something right. I would like everybody to now get back to focussing

on the football for its own sake and I think if things go well for us over the next few days, it could be a turning point."

"Yet even if the wheel turns full circle and the critics start applauding us, we know that it is probably only a matter of time before it swings back again. But that is something we have always had to live with at Arsenal. It will not affect the aims we are trying to achieve."

Michael Thomas, the Arsenal midfielder player who takes his place in an unchanged Highbury side, was equally positive. "We made a big mistake at Old Trafford, but it was blown up out of all proportion," he said. "We have accepted the fact that we have been fined and lost the two points, and have just got on with it."

The match is of immense importance for the collective ego of United, who aim to exorcise the memory of the televised 3-2 home defeat by Chelsea on Sunday. That result reinforced the reality that United's chance of securing the League championship is now no more than mathematical.



Getting on with life: Thomas, of Arsenal, is keen to forget the bad memories from Manchester

Butcher out to put the record straight

By CHRIS MOORE and LOUISE TAYLOR

TERRY Butcher, the new player-manager of Coventry City, comes face to face with Brian Clough for the first time tonight intent on ending Nottingham Forest's remarkable sequence of 22 matches without defeat in the Rumbelows Cup.

"I have never actually met the man before, although I have seen him on the bench many times," Butcher said. "But I am really looking forward to looking horns with him as opposing managers. His record in this competition, and in football as a whole, is outstanding."

The fact that Forest, winners of the competition for the last two seasons, have eliminated Coventry along each of their routes to Wembley, adds extra spice to tonight's meeting at Highbury Road.

"We are hoping it is going to be a third time lucky for us," Butcher said. "It is a great deal to the Coventry public if we can put the record straight this time. Although I was not here last season when Forest beat us in the semi-finals, I am well aware of how much that defeat still rankles."

"I played in a losing League Cup semi-final myself, for Ipswich against Liverpool, so I know exactly how the experience would have hurt the Coventry players. There will be no need to motivate them. It is a plum tie and a revenge win would be a great boost for both the club and the city."

Butcher, however, acknowledged that Forest's unbeaten record in the competition, dating back to the first Cup, added. "When you enjoy that kind of repeated success in a competition, it breeds supreme

confidence. You look at the fixture list at the start of the season and mentally pencil in the date of the final."

Butcher went on to tie the having won only one of their last six games in the first division. "We are the ones who are going to have to raise our game," Ron Fenton, the assistant manager, said. "We are going to be determined to put one across to this time and we're expecting it to be a bit like the Alamo. We are a side that likes to play football. But we know we will have to take harder and show more determination as the need arises."

Chelsea travel to Oxford United well aware that only an extra-time rally, which secured a 2-1 win in a replay against Portsmouth in the last round, spared their blushing against second division opposition.

Dave Beasant, the Chelsea goalkeeper, said: "I was injured and was in the back of the stand with a load of Chelsea supporters who were shouting that they wanted their money back when we were two goals down with ten minutes left. Beasant returns in goal, but Tony Doris, the Chelsea left back, is expected to be absent with a leg injury."

Meanwhile, Brian Horton, the Oxford manager, must bolster the confidence of his players following last Saturday's 5-2 home defeat to Middlesbrough. "I have told them to cut out the fancy footwork," he said yesterday.

Derby County, who put six goals past Sunderland in the last round, travel to Sheffield Wednesday without Nigel Callaghan, who Aston Villa do not want cup-tied, and with Geraint Williams and Mel Sage awaiting late fitness tests.

Stoke City yesterday signed on a free transfer. The winger, aged 31, will make his first appearance in the reserves at home to Scunthorpe today.

Inter confident of success

By LOUISE TAYLOR

HAVING disposed of Aston Villa in the second round of the UEFA Cup, Internazionale now face Partizan Belgrade in the first leg of their third-round tie at the San Siro stadium tonight. Although Inter have not lifted a European trophy for 25 years, they are confident that, this season, they can end that record and take a step towards that end by building a healthy advantage in front of their Milanese crowd against Partizan.

Inter's preparation has been ideal: on Sunday, they beat Naples, the Italian champions, 2-1 in a league fixture, a result which left them sharing pole position in Italy with Sampdoria.

Not only do Inter include the German World Cup-winning striker of Lothar Matthäus, Jürgen Klinsmann and Andreas Brehme, they also have history on their side - they beat Partizan along the route to winning the European Cup for the first time in 1964.

Atlanta, who recorded their first win in the Italian league for two months on Saturday, look less likely to reach the final eight

of the competition. They face Cologne who reached the UEFA Cup final as recently as 1986.

The Italians are hampered by the first leg of their third-round tie, their Argentine international forward, who is recovering from a broken arm. Much will depend on the performance of Glenn Strömberg, the Swedish international, in their mid-field, around whom most of their effective play revolves.

Runners-up to Bayern Munich in the German championship last season, Cologne will be without their influential midfielder player, Pierre Littbarski, and Paul Steiner, both of whom are injured.

Bologna, who lie second from bottom of the Italian first division and have won only twice all season, their latest defeat coming on Sunday, 4-1, at the hands of AS Roma, are expected to make heavy weather of their tie against Admira Wacker, of Austria.

Roma, beaten European Cup finalists in 1984, are at home to Borussia Dortmund, who are presently twelfth in the French first division and who are coming to

terms with the departure of Claude Bezi, their previously powerful president, who resigned last week after being charged with fraud.

Berndt Dostmann, of Germany, beaten by Inter in the 1964 European Cup semi-final, visit Anderlecht, of Belgium, who are expected to welcome back Michel de Wolf, their international defender, after injury.

Vitesse Arnhem, the last team from The Netherlands left in any of the three European competitions, will rely heavily on the experience of Frans Thijssen, who earned a UEFA Cup-winners' medal with Ipswich Town in 1981. Now aged 38 and playing in defence, Thijssen is still regarded as Vitesse's key player.

In the other UEFA Cup ties, Torpedo Moscow are at home to Maccabi Tel Aviv, of Israel, who has offered to inject a substantial sum of cash into the second division club.

It is believed that Maccabi's offer will benefit City to the tune of £1 million if other members of the board agree to produce a similar amount.

Fulham's FA Cup second round tie against Cambridge United will be played at Craven Cottage on Friday, December 7, at 7.30pm. The switch is being made to assist policing arrangements as there are first division derbies in west London the following day, between Chelsea and Crystal Palace and Wimbledon and QPR.

United to sign best since Best

MANCHESTER United are to sign a 16-year-old forward who has been acclaimed as the best prospect since George Best, on a two-year contract. United have been keeping Ryan Giggs, from Cardiff, under wraps as schoolboy players are open to offers from rival clubs.

Giggs will accept the offer of a contract from the United manager, Alex Ferguson, when he reaches his 17th birthday tomorrow.

The United coaches, Brian Kidd and Nobby Stiles, rate Giggs as the best prospect they have seen since Best, while Ferguson said: "He's the best youngster I have had at one of my clubs." Giggs is eligible to play for both Wales and England at international level.

Bridlington Town, beaten finalists in last season's FA Vase, are drawn at home to Epsom Colliery Welfare in the third round of the 1990-91 competition, which is to be played on December 15.

Yeading, who beat them 1-0 in last season's final replay following a goalless draw at Wembley, have moved up to the FA Challenge Trophy this year.

SNOOKER

Fowler fired by forecasts of quick departure

By STEVE ACTESON

DANNY Fowler is a placid character with no noticeable chips on either shoulder. But one dismissive forecast was enough to spur him into the StormSeal United Kingdom championship quarter-finals, in which he meets the defending champion, Stephen Hendry, over the best of 17 frames today.

The key to Fowler's remarkable recovery from 4-1 down to beat Gary Wilkinson, a semi-finalist last year, by 9-8 in his choice of breakfast reading matter.

"I was determined to have Gary," the world No. 29 from Workop said. "The *Racing Post* said he was expected to beat me with the minimum of fuss and that really annoyed me."

Hendry might hope that the pundits are not as dismissive of Fowler today, but the world champion seems fireproof at present and is buoyed up by his steady run of 28 victories in ranking matches since March.

Fowler reached the semi-finals of two successive ranking tournaments in the first half of last season only to come up against the mighty duo of Hendry and Davis.

"I keep meeting these guys

when they are in peak form. But I have got to beat the likes of them if I'm ever going to win a major championship."

"I'm honestly looking forward to playing Stephen again. He has shown himself to be a worthy world champion but I am in with a chance of beating him."

If Fowler does it will help to lift the gloom from a sorrowful year for the former dartsman. Last January his manager and close friend, Tony Goulding, was killed in a car crash. Goulding's widow, Raffella, took over Fowler's management contract while maintaining the family business and bringing up five daughters.

"She is quite a woman," Fowler said. "Tony's death brought us a lot closer together and it was nice to be able to continue the partnership despite what had happened."

Two of snooker's first-season professionals, Alan McManus, of Scotland, and Jon Birch, of England, celebrated their 50th birthday yesterday by taking leads in their fifth round matches.

Birch, resplendent in white trousers, led Nigel Bond 5-1, but it was McManus who took the eye by moving 5-2 ahead against Sylvino Francisco, of South Africa. McManus had a clearance of 101 in frame four and it is believed he is the first player to make a century during his debut before the television cameras since Hendry did so at the World Championship of 1986.

RESULTS: 16th round: J Birch (Eng) leads N Bond (Eng) 4-3; A McManus (Scot) leads S Francisco (SA) 5-2; J Perrett (Eng) leads J Perrett (Eng) 1-0; J Perrett (Eng) leads J Perrett (Eng) 1-0.

TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY: Quarter-finals (best of 17 frames). Sessions at 10.30 and 1.30pm. 17.00pm: Fowler (Eng) v Hendry (Eng); 18.00pm: Birch (Eng) v Bond (Eng); 19.00pm: Perrett (Eng) v Perrett (Eng); 20.00pm: Perrett (Eng) v Perrett (Eng).

YACHTING

Underdogs helped by high pressure

By BARRY PICKTHALL

IT WAS a day for the underdogs as a high pressure system centred over the Indian Ocean split the 21-strong BOC singlehanded round-the-world race fleet yesterday during the fourth day of their second-stage voyage from Cape Town to Sydney.

Those led by South Africa's John Martin, who struck out to the east soon after rounding the Cape of Good Hope, gained a significant advantage overnight on the fabled skippers who chose to head due south into the Roaring Forties only to run into calms.

Alain Ganiier, whose 60ft French challenger, Generali Concordi led the fleet into Cape Town at the end of the first stage and away again last Saturday, slumped to fifth place, leaving the two Australian skippers, David Adams and Kanga Birles to take up the chase.

The American sailor, Mike Plant, whose yacht, Duracell, was involved in a collision with Berrie Reed's South African entry, Grinaker, shortly before Saturday's start, is another to have faltered. He dropped from third to ninth overnight after

complaining that his boat was taking in 50 gallons of water an hour through holes in the deck. On Monday he altered course in the hope of running into better weather but he now looks to be stuck directly in the high, along with Philippe Jeantot and Reed.

Josh Hall, now seventh overall, has five class one entries behind his class two British challenger, New Spirit of Ipswich. Robin Davis, of Britain, leading the Corinthian class, opened up a 100-mile lead over the American, Robert Hooker.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 05.34 GMT yesterday, with miles to Sydney): Class 1: 1. French (J Martin, 60ft); 2. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 3. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 4. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 5. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 6. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 7. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 8. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 9. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 10. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 11. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 12. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 13. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 14. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 15. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 16. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 17. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 18. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 19. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 20. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft); 21. New Spirit of Ipswich (J Davis, 60ft).

FENCING

Success for Tomlinson

BRITISH fencing saw its best result for several years this weekend when the epeeist, Penny Tomlinson, of London Thames, came fifth in the European (A) grade event (a Special Correspondent writes).

The world's top epeeists had turned out and in pushing the West Germans, Eva Maria Iuta and Uta Schaeper, into sixth and eighth places, and the Italian, Anna Lisa Coltori, into seventh, Tomlinson has exercised her capability at this weapon.

The result follows the GB women's epee team win in Oslo on October 28 which included Tomlinson. Although only ran-

ner-up to Nikki Twigg in this year's British championships, she must be seen now as Britain's leading epeeist.

Sabre has also had its success recently with an 8-8 draw against Hungary, the Olympic champions, in Munich on November 10-11, and 17th position for the British champion, Nick Fletcher.

EPER RESULT: 1. Margurita Zalassi (H); 2. Marianna Horbath (H); 3. Timia Nagy (H); 4. Bettina Fischer (W); 5. Penny Tomlinson (GB); 6. Eva Maria Iuta (W); 7. Anna Lisa Coltori (I); 8. Uta Schaeper (W).

IN BRIEF

Life ban reduced

LARRY Myricks, the Olympic long jump bronze medal winner, has had a lifetime ban for drug use lifted by officials of the Athletics Congress, who voted in Seattle, Washington, to reinstate him from April 13 next year.

Myricks, who tested positive for the banned stimulant phenylpropylamine at indoor meetings this year, can return to competition on April 13, a year after his original suspension.

RUGBY UNION: Will Carling, the England captain, led the sport's support for the Coral Gaiety Ball at the Cafe Royal, London, last night in aid of Sports Injuries Association (SIA). Last year the Bills and people became members of SIA following spinal cord injuries.

SWIMMING: Illness has deprived England of two leading swimmers for the Four Nations Sprint contest at Wolverhampton on Saturday. Samantha Purvis, of Mercury Wigan Wasps, and Grant Robins, of Portsmouth Northsea, are both recovering from influenza.

RALLYING: The Paris-Moscow-Beijing Rally will finally take place in September next year - 83 years after such a race was first conceived.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated. Rumbelows Cup Fourth round. Arsenal v Nottm Forest (all ticket, 8.00). Aston Villa v Middlesbrough (7.45). Coventry v Nottm Forest (7.45). Oxford Utd v Chelsea (8.00). Sheffield Wed v Derby (7.45).

Leyland Dnf Cup Preliminary round. Exeter v Hereford. Huddersfield v Hartlepool.

PREMIER INTER-LEAGUE CUP: Third round. Southampton v Hyde. NEW LEAGUE: Premier division. Nottm Forest v Sheffield Wednesday. Second division. Rotherham v Barnsley. Third division. Rotherham v Barnsley. Fourth division. Rotherham v Barnsley.

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SPORT ON TV

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: BBC 14.00-15.00. National Football League. Sunday. Football League Cup. Fourth round. Arsenal v Nottm Forest (all ticket, 8.00). Aston Villa v Middlesbrough (7.45). Coventry v Nottm Forest (7.45). Oxford Utd v Chelsea (8.00). Sheffield Wed v Derby (7.45).

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SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

Lord's launch aims to promote play for all

By JANE WYATT

TWO former England batsmen, Clive Radley and Roland Mather, of Maccabi, are launching a new initiative to promote cricket as a multi-disability sport at the Lord's indoor school this week. The scheme is being organised by the British Sports Association for the Disabled (BSAD) and is sponsored by the National Westminster Bank.

The launch at Lord's also represents the first in a series of development days which will be held across the country during the next year. The aim is to encourage participation across all the seven disability groups, as well as to enlighten coaches about the potential the game has for disabled people.

During the development days, coaches and organisers will be invited to take part in seminars on "disability awareness". In practice, this means instruction in how various aspects of disability relate to playing the sport, and how their

own teaching methods may require modification. Teaching someone who uses a wheelchair to hold a bat poses a different challenge to putting the same points across to a player with a visual handicap.

The second aspect of the development days will centre on a practical workshop, where coaches will be able to gain "hands on" experience of teaching people with disabilities. BSAD hopes for an enthusiastic approach which could result in the setting up of multi-disability clubs leading to the formation of a national league. The programme has the backing of the National Cricket Association, as well as the Association of Cricket Coaches. Three Surrey coaches and six from the London Community Cricket Association will be invited to the launch. All of the organisations see this initiative as a useful way of promoting the game to sections of the community often excluded from participation.

Leaders are rewarded

FIVE players from Team Mizuno Malory, the new first division leaders in the Royal Bank English League, are included in the English Volleyball Association's Allstars team for next week's Perestroika Tournament in Oxford.

Their opening group matches are against Oxford University on Monday and Lithuania on Wednesday. EVA ALLSTARS: R Doherty (Team Mizuno Malory), S Doherty (Team Mizuno Malory), M Jones (Team Mizuno Malory), A Preece (Team Mizuno Malory), A Preece (Team Mizuno Malory).

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Houston Oilers 27, Buffalo Bills 24.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston Celtics 115, Miami Heat 101.

ICE HOCKEY: NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New York Rangers 4, Buffalo Sabres 2.

RUGBY FIVES: CLASH MATCHES: Old Redoubt 110, Rugby Old Redoubt 110.

RUGBY UNION: UNDER-21 MATCHES: Cardiff 14, East York 14.

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RUGBY UNION: UNDER-21 MATCHES: Cardiff 14, East York 14.

RUGBY FIVES: CLASH MATCHES: Old Redoubt 1

- CRICKET 44
- RACING 45
- RUGBY UNION 46

SPORT

England flout Gattling ban

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN BRISBANE
AND RICHARD STREETON

THE England cricket team's management was guilty of an error of judgment here yesterday when it accepted an offer from Mike Gattling, the banned former captain, to help out at net practice.

Gattling was brought into the England squad session without reference to the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB). That body may face representations from members of the International Cricket Council (ICC) over its interpretation of the five-year suspension imposed on Gattling when he led the unsanctioned tour of South Africa earlier this year.

In London, Lieutenant-Colonel John Stephenson, secretary of the ICC, said Gattling and the England management had been "rather insensitive". He added: "There has been no actual breach of the ICC agreement by England but it is open to question whether or not the spirit of the law has been broken. I do not think it was a wise thing to do."

Stephenson said it was too early to know whether he would receive any complaints about what had happened. "I suppose if anybody contacts the ICC officially, I might have to write to the 'United Kingdom' for clarification of what happened and the circumstances."

This time last year, members of Gattling's side shared routine indoor winter practice with county team-mates before their departure for South Africa. The "rebels", though, were barred from using the Lillieshall National Sports Centre before setting out.

Sam Ramsamy, the executive chairman of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (Sanroc), criticised "the officers of the TCCB who invited Gattling to take part in the practice session".

Ramsamy did not direct too much blame towards Gattling himself. "In a very peripheral way, he has been trespassing on the rules governing his ban," he said. "But the spirit is as important as the letter of the agreement and we feel a bit perturbed that the people in charge of the team have found it fit to invite him to take part in a training session."

Alan Smith, the chief executive of the TCCB, said in a statement yesterday: "Having suffered a heavy defeat, the England team and management are quite rightly keen to take advantage of every asset available to them to improve performances in order to regain the Ashes."

"While it is true that Mike Gattling is banned by ICC regulations from playing Test cricket, there is no doubt he is very eager to see Australia beaten and offered his services. It would seem foolish to ignore his expertise and

experience in the circumstances. Gattling is banned for five years from playing international cricket but he's not banned from helping England in any other way."

Gattling was banned under the ICC resolution of January 1989 which forbade all "sporting contact" with South Africa. The resolution specifically mentioned playing, coaching or administering cricket in South Africa but did not cover practising with an international side.

There will also be those on the TCCB itself unhappy that Gattling, who is in Australia as a member of the media, has been embraced by the official tour party after being so closely identified with the damaging and divisive South African tour. Ted Dexter, the chairman of the England committee, may be among those most uneasy, having deplored the defection of Gattling and others by saying at the time: "Their first and only loyalty should have been to English cricket."

Although there is plainly no intention of Gattling being considered as a player on the tour, it was, at best, insensitive to involve him on such a public level when his suspension from international cricket can be construed as prohibiting any contact that could be viewed as benefiting England.

During the first Test, Gattling was inconspicuously, if innocently, close to the team, even inspecting the pitch with Graham Gooch before start of play. At the nets yesterday he bowled and hit catches but when the squad began a full-scale middle practice, he slipped away to a lunch engagement wondering what all the fuss was about. "I can't see anything wrong," he said. "It is no different from any other English cricketer helping out."

Gattling no doubt volunteered himself with the best intentions when he dined with the management team of Peter Lush and Micky Stewart on Monday evening. His offer was based on providing an extra, experienced player at practice, in addition to helping rid himself of excess winter poundage. If he can be criticised, it is only for the naivety which has been his downfall on more than one issue.

The compliance of Lush and Stewart is less comfortably excused. Lush, having confirmed that he did not deem it necessary to seek authority on the matter, stated: "Mike is nothing officially to do with the team and I do not see any conflict."

Lush should have thanked Gattling but told him that it would be unwise to flaunt a suspended player. Explaining how the situation arose, Lush



Explosive partnership: Gattling striking out at the bowling of Stewart, the England manager, yesterday

said: "Mike volunteered himself. We considered his situation but he has a lot to offer, and I would be very surprised if people objected."

Gattling has long had a special relationship with Stewart, a prime mover to restore him as captain in 1989, only a year after he had been dismissed.

As a captain-manager partnership, Gattling and Stewart enjoyed great success in Australia four years ago but were subsequently responsible for presiding over, and implicitly condoning, a breakdown in player discipline that might have cost both their jobs.

Kapil Dev landmark, page 44

Marshall reported for abuse

LAHORE (Reuters) — The West Indies fast bowler, Malcolm Marshall, has been reported to the West Indies tour management and to the cricket authorities in Pakistan for abusing the umpires during the second cricket test between the two countries, Pakistani cricket officials said yesterday.

West Indies won the match on Sunday to square the three-match series 1-1, largely thanks to Marshall's figures of four for 24 in the second innings, but the Barbados bowler tangled several times with the umpire, Riazuddin,

after being warned for running on to the pitch and having trouble with his run up.

Cricketers officials said he abused Riazuddin, who complained to the West Indies manager, Lance Gibbs, and the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan. West Indies next play a three-day match against a Combined XI starting in Sargodha on Saturday before the last Test in Lahore on December 6.

Daryl Foster, aged 50, the coach to the Western Australian Cricket Association, is to be Kent's new coach for next season.

The Kent cricket chairman, Jim Woodhouse, said: "In his time with Western Australia, they have won the Sheffield Shield eight times, won seven one-day competitions and we hope he will bring the winning habit to Kent."

The Leicestershire opening batsman, Tim Boon, has settled his contract dispute with the county and decided to stay at Grace Road. There had been speculation that he might join his native county, Yorkshire. Boon, aged 29, has accepted a two-year deal with the option of a one-year extension.

Ailing Villa need victory

By CHRIS MOORE

AS GRAHAM Taylor's successor at Aston Villa, Dr Jozef Venglos could hardly have hoped for a more satisfactory baptism in English football: a 2-0 home win over Internazionale, the manager of the month award for October, an extended contract and a substantial pay rise.

But the honeymoon is over. The man who guided Czechoslovakia to the World Cup quarter-finals in Italy faces today the real pressures of English football. Ironically, it has all gone sour for Venglos since Villa won widespread admiration for their victory over Internazionale at the UEFA Cup on October 24.

Since then, they have performed as if basking in that triumph. They have gone six

games without a win in the first division, scoring only one goal. They have lost their last four away games, including a 3-0 second-leg beating in Milan. After 14 League games, they are 24 points behind Liverpool, to whom they finished runners-up last season. Villa have fallen to within two points of the relegation mark.

"What's up, Doc?" was the question posed by the back-page headline in the *Birmingham Evening Mail* this week. While it may be premature to panic, there will be genuine alarm if Villa come unstuck against Middlesbrough in their Rumblebowl Cup fourth-round tie at Villa Park tonight.

"That, and our home game against Sheffield United on Saturday, is the immediate

route out of our predicament," John Ward, Villa's assistant manager, said yesterday. "We haven't lost at home this season and have won six of our seven cup-ties. If you get into the last eight of any competition, you have got to start fancying yourselves to go all the way. That's the motivation and incentive we have to pick the whole thing up and put it right."

Venglos needs to administer an instant remedy to Villa's problems after successive 2-0 defeats at Norwich City and Luton Town, while Middlesbrough, who beat Villa in the semi-finals of last season's Zenith Cup, won 5-2 at Oxford on Saturday to take their away goals total to 21.

Villa's problems may stem from their three-man central defence, which invariably

leaves them one short in the holding midfield area. Unless one of these central defenders pushes forward to fill the gap, a role that Ivo Stasa, their latest signing, has been bought from Czechoslovakia to fill when he is fit, the system often falls down as Villa are overrun in midfield.

As a result, David Platt spends more time defending than getting forward, leaving Tony Cascarino with inadequate support up front. Platt admitted at the weekend: "We are not creating chances and haven't been too happy defensively either."

Villa have to start scoring goals again, and the temptation, at least in the short term, will be to revert to a flat back-four, stiffen the midfield, and possibly even push Platt forward into a striking role.

Watford look to Perryman

By a SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

COLIN Lee has been dismissed as the Watford manager and replaced by another former Tottenham player, Steve Perryman.

Perryman, 38, was appointed yesterday with the ambitions of Jack Petchey, the chairman, ringing in his ears. "It is possible for us to stay up and even possible for us to reach the play-offs," Petchey said.

Perryman's immediate target is more realistic. Keeping Watford in the second division will be his only priority. "It is a precarious position that the club is in but I would not have accepted the job unless I knew that Watford could stay in the second division," he said.

Under Lee, Watford suffered a miserable start to the season and find themselves seven points adrift of Charlton at the foot of the table. The final nail in Lee's coffin was

driven home at St James' Park on Saturday when Newcastle beat Watford 1-0.

The club's record at home in the league is lamentable, with just two points and four goals. Lee, aged 34, who replaced Steve Harrison as manager in March, could blame bad luck, as much as bad results, for his downfall.

Tony Cotton, the goalkeeper, joined Manchester City for £1 million in July, while Watford have been confounded further by a series of injuries.

The most serious injury has affected Gary Penrice, the former Bristol Rovers forward, who scored 12 goals in 29 league games to finish last season but has had just one outing since the summer because of knee ligament trouble.

Lee, who joined Watford in August 1989 as youth team

coach, said: "I have never been involved in a run as bad as the one Watford have had this season."

"There is no acrimony upon my departure and I just hope the club can turn things around before the season is out." Perryman, who played for England in 1982 during a 19-year playing career at White Hart Lane, has been scouting for Middlesbrough since leaving his only previous managerial post, at Brentford, before the start of the season.

"I have formed some opinions on the problems at this club. But it really seems to be a lack of confidence and that is the issue I must confront first," he said.

"It pays to be wise, sit back and have a good look at the staff — there will be no purges and everyone will get a chance to prove themselves."

Police deal with Walsh and Adams

POLICE from Scotland Yard are to interview the Tottenham Hotspur forward, Paul Walsh, and are to report the Arsenal captain, Tony Adams, to the Football Association after the players were involved in separate incidents during first division matches on Saturday.

Walsh is to be interviewed by police this week over allegations that he assaulted two supporters after Tottenham's game with Norwich.

Scotland Yard confirmed that the two men alleged that they were assaulted by Walsh.

Adams will be reported to the FA over charges that he made a provocative sign at the crowd during Arsenal's match with Queen's Park Rangers at Loftus Road. Police have not ruled out the possibility of criminal charges.

Racing close to financial crisis, survey suggests

By RICHARD EVANS

THE SURVEY

ALMOST half of Britain's racehorse trainers are considering quitting the sport because they are losing the struggle to make ends meet, according to a representative sample interviewed for an authoritative survey published today.

The analysis confirms the worst fears that racing is on the edge of an unprecedented financial collapse caused by high training fees and costs becoming further out of balance with low prize-money.

The report into the financing of racing was commissioned by the Marquess of Zetland, chairman of Redcar racecourse and outgoing chairman of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, and carried out by FA Cambridge Economic Consultants.

It shows that owners of Flat horses are paying out more than £200 million a year in training fees, operating costs and capital losses, and the only monetary return is £22 million prize-money — so an increasing number are cutting back or opting out.

"In order to prevent what could soon become a haemorrhage of owners and trainers from the industry, it would appear that some combination of massively increased prize-money and government fiscal measures designed to encourage people to own horses is necessary," it says.

The 70-page report, which has been seen by Lord Harington and Christopher Haines, senior steward and chief executive of the Jockey Club, and other industry leaders, says British horse racing is "severely underfunded".

"There is a crisis which is more profound than any difficulties suffered by racing during previous economic downturns. Underfunding is a long-term problem which has been exacerbated by current problems in the economy."

British racing is probably the least self-sufficient among the big racing nations, dependent on a handful of large owners — many of them Arabs — who are prepared to lose vast sums and trainers who effectively subsidise the sport with money from other businesses, such as farming, or have dangerously high overdrafts.

A high proportion of trainers, even among those who own their own properties, feel that they are struggling to make training pay. Many feel that they may be forced to leave training.

"Nearly half the trainers in our survey were considering leaving training in the near future or leaving if things did not improve considerably."

The report concludes: "The nub of the problem is the relationship between the cost of training racehorses and the returns of owners, both in monetary terms and in terms of being satisfied with their chance of winning races."

"Training costs are rising faster than owners' willingness to pay the fees being asked, given their perception of the rewards for having horses in training. Fees are very high as far as owners are concerned, and very low as far as trainers are concerned (many feel the need to charge £10 per day for each horse). This tension is tearing the fabric of British racing."

Simple solutions such as reducing the number of trainers and bad horses are not the answer, according to the report; the crisis in racing is not that simple.

"The basic problem is the loss by owners of 80 per cent of their operating costs (i.e. they win in prize-money only 20 per cent of these costs) and their unwillingness to accept this situation."

The compilers of the report interviewed 49 trainers based at Newmarket, Lambourn and Malton, and included the big battalions with more than 100 horses who regularly finish in the top five prize-money winners each season, as well as people running middle-size and small yards. Owners, bloodstock agents, estate agents and bank managers were also questioned.

About a dozen stables at Lambourn and Newmarket are at present on the market, their value having plummeted by an estimated 30 to 40 per cent in the past year.

"A large proportion of trainers appear to have been borrowing against their properties to cover operating losses or to buy horses to keep their boxes full. The fall in their property values and rise in interest rates have put these trainers and their creditors in a very difficult position."

A "great majority" of trainers said training did not make a profit or pay a reasonable salary most ran up overdrafts. One bank manager in a racing centre who has 40 per cent of his business with racehorse trainers disclosed fears that "a crisis is approaching for a large proportion of trainers, with many having to re-finance outside the major banks." Several of his trainers "could go on for no more than another three or four years on present trends."

Even top trainers do not generally make good profits, in spite of common assumptions. Their costs tend to rise to the level of fees, and returns on capital employed and turnover are very moderate, the report states.

The trainers were asked if they wished to stay in training or to leave.

Will stay for the foreseeable future — 12 per cent
Would leave if could, but feel trapped — 19 per cent
Would leave in the next year or two because of lack of commercial viability — 12 per cent
Intend to leave in the next year or two if things do not improve considerably — 19 per cent
Will stay in spite of its lack of commercial viability — 40 per cent

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"Many people assume that the trainers at the top run successful, profitable businesses and only smaller trainers lose money. This does not appear to be the case, judged on our in-depth interviews with four trainers with large stables, many Arab-owned horses and charging top rates (about £32 a day). One was losing money on his training and the others were unable to rely on fees alone."

Middle-ranking and some larger owners are substantially losing their operations. Those leaving are not being replaced; since the Arabs entered a decade ago, there has been a dearth of new owners — 15 to 20 horses or more."

Since training fees are rising significantly faster than prices, as well as prize-money, "the situation is becoming untenable for a large proportion of owners."

A study of the accounts of six trainers over the past 15 years highlights their difficulties. Despite the sample being biased towards the upper end of the training ladder, four of the six were not generally able to show a reasonably healthy excess of fees over operating costs. "In the 15 years' accounts shown for these trainers, there are only three years where a good profit was shown."

Most southern trainers with stables housing 25 to 40 horses appear to be making losses or operating very close to the margin.

Bookmaking interests, in particular, have cited the increase in the number of owners and horses in training during the 1980s as evidence that racing is financially robust. The report, however, says the underlying tendency for there to be fewer horses in training because of cutbacks by a majority of owners "has started to manifest itself and the number of horses in training has fallen in 1990."

Desert Orchid Jockey, page 45

Back to boating days

THE University football match will return to its roots on March 30 when the annual encounter between Oxford and Cambridge Universities will take place at Craven Cottage on Boat Race day (Louise Taylor writes).

In recent years the 118-year-old fixture has been played in December, but Ben Brown, Oxford's representative at the Football Association, discovered that back in 1873 it coincided with a springtime Boat Race.

Brown cited several reasons for this switch in date and venue, including time to prepare players, the greater availability of the League

grounds, and the hope of a bigger crowd. The game will be presented as a package with the Boat Race.

The rescheduling seems a logical attempt to recapture the glamour of the event. Between 1953 and 1987 the match was held at Wembley, where in its heyday it attracted crowds of more than 20,000 but had to settle for around 6,000 in latter years.

In 1988 the match moved to Highbury, the home of Arsenal, where 6,000 spectators turned out, 1,000 more than showed up at the Abbey Stadium, home of Cambridge United, last year.

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